MADRAS INFORMATION

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MADRAS

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The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

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Editorial Notes

REMOVAL OF HARIJAN'S DISABILITIES

The Madras Legislature has adopted the Bill introduced by the Hon'ble Mr. Kurmayya, Minister for Information and Harijan Uplift, to amend the Civil Disabilities Removal Act of 1938, in order to prevent discriminatory treatment against Harijans in regard to entry into public places like hotels, coffee houses and restaurants. The enactment makes it penal for the owner of any public place or hotel or restaurant to deny entrance to anyone solely for reasons of caste or community, and statutory recognition has been accorded to the principle of the right of every individual to enjoy a right common to everyone. The placing of the Bill on the Statute Book should go a long way to make the Harijans, who form an integral part of the Hindu community, feel that their place in the community is based on the recognition of certain fundamental concepts and that they cannot be treated separately or as distinct from members of other castes that belong to the Hindu religion. This piece of legislation should rouse the conscience of the community as a whole and enable it to realise that social disabilities which discriminate between individual and individual will not be countenanced hereafter and that in the eyes of law everyone is equal to everyone else so far as the exercise of social and civic rights is concerned. We have herein the foundation for true social democracy.

WHY THE PUBLIC SAFETY BILL?

The debate on the non-official resolution on the Public Safety Ordinance in the Assembly and the council covered wide ground and every point of view was canvassed to the maximum extent. The over-whelming majority by which the resolution condemning the ordinance was defeated indicates that the general sense of the House was in favour of the measures intended solely to combat a rapidly disintegrating agrarian and industrial situation. Fears expressed that the measure may be used for purposes other than tackling the Communist or some other equally dangerous menace were answered and assuaged by the Hon'ble Premier, who said that the objectionable features of the Ordinance could be eliminated in the course of consideration of the draft Bill, while adequate safeguarding provisions could be incorporated to avoid abuse of the powers with which it invests the Executive. The Government, at the same time, have provided ample evidence of their *bona fides* in the matter by the manner in which they responded to the criticisms in the Legislature, and so long as the popular Government is in office, everyone can rest assured that the Public Safety measures will be administered with discretion and care, with a full knowledge of the need not to infringe the civil liberties of the people.

The Prime Minister's speech in reply to the debate contains a clear elucidation of the background of the agitation that is being carried on against the Ordinance by different sections of

the people. The main features of the situation, he pointed out, are " looting, burning and doing every such thing even with regard to food-stuffs that are essential for the peoples' living." The analysis revealingly demonstrates that the compelling force and motive behind the agitation against the measure is not to deny the necessity for it, but to exploit the working class and the peasant by promises of the millennium and by minimising the advantages of the Government's ameliorative measures in various directions. Even the Communist Party cannot, on the basis of the disconcerting and sombre picture drawn by the Premier, assert with any degree of justifiability that the measure is either unnecessary or ill-timed. It is necessary and well-timed in the light of the imperative need to maintain order and to preserve the legitimate rights of the people against attacks by an organized group of people, though it is recognized that some provisions of the original Ordinance may have to be modified or altered to render them less stringent and less comprehensive. On this point, the Prime Minister's assurance is unequivocal and clear. He said that a Bill was getting ready and " we have been anxious to take note of all the criticisms that have been made." " This measure, let me assure you," he said further, " Will not hold the field and will not be law for one day more than the required period. No undue severity will be shown to any of those gentlemen who have been dealt with under this Ordinance." Nothing can be more reasonable or assuring than this statement.

Village officers and servants reinstated

The Government have decided that village officers and servants, who had been removed or dismissed or who had resigned or relinquished their claims to appointment as village officers or whose claims for appointment as village officers were overlooked on account of their sympathy with, or participation in, the Civil disobedience movement of 1940–41 or the subsequent movement of 1942 and the activities that followed on it, should be restored to office. They have accordingly considered the cases of village officers and servants reported by the Board of Revenue and also of others brought to their notice by individual representations, and orders have been passed in the case of several persons. Some of the cases are still under consideration and orders on them will be issued in due course.

As for the village officers and servants who will be ousted as a result of the orders above, they would be given preference when appointments are made to village officers in their respective districts. Moreover, these ousted people will also be given preference when appointments are made to vacancies in other Government departments.

Unsought compliment

The *Sakal* of Poona of 8th December 1946, does me the honour of being made responsible for the programme of Rural Development put forward by some Provincial Governments, notably Madras. Premier Prakasam Garu is no weak-kneed person who would accept any scheme from anybody. He is a strong-willed individual and a clear thinker, capable of looking after himself. Years before he became minister he was running a paper, " The Village Republic," in which he had envisaged self-governing villages. He began with a political approach to self sufficiency and if his logic has driven him to self sufficiency in economics, too, is it any wonder ? I am of course, proud to be associated with a leader like him.

A long term policy like the Madras Textile Policy must not be judged from a short range view of immediate needs. Even so, it must be granted that it will take several years for a newly installed mill to produce goods while the intensification of the Khadi programme will yield immedidiate results and meet the present shortage in cloth requirements.

This leader writer criticises our policy of converting toddy tappers into palm gur makers on the ground that a " bottle of toddy fetches six annas while gur made from it may be worth only six pies." This is hardly the criterion to be used in deciding national policies. Toddy is an anti-social poison, while gur is a nutritive food. Surely these should not be compared and judged on the basis ' money values.' —J. C. Kumarappa.

Paper control

Of late there has been considerable increase in the number of applicants for paper from newly established Presses. As the allotment for a new Press has been fixed at a minimum of 750 lb. per quarter and as every addition of a Press results in increased consumption of paper which is still in short supply, it has become necessary to restrict the issue of Paper Issue Cards in future. Accordingly it is announced for general information that no card will be issued to persons who buy part or portion of the equipment of a Press already in operation and in possession of a Paper Issue Card.

Madras Government Press Notes

Interviews with Ministers

The Honourable Ministers will normally grant interviews to non-official visitors at office on working days, only during the hours specified below :—

Honourable Prime Minister and Honourable Minister (Public Works)—From 3 to 4-30 p.m.

Honourable Minister (Industries and Labour) —From 2-45 to 4 p.m.

Honourable Minister (Motor Transport and Food)—From 3-30 to 5 p.m.

Honourable Minister (Hindu Religious Endowments)—From 3 to 5 p.m.

All other Honourable Ministers—From 3 to 4 p.m.

Any visitor who comes to the Secretariat during non-visiting hours will first go to the Reception Officer and if he has a previous engagement will show the letter making the engagement to him whereupon a permit will be issued by the Reception Officer to see the Honourable Minister or Ministers. If there is no previous engagement but the purpose of the visit is proved to be really important and urgent and the visitor cannot wait till the commencement of the visiting hour fixed by the Honourable Minister concerned, the Reception Officer will telephone to the Honourable Minister and get his permission to issue a permit. Permits issued by the Reception Officer will therefore be required by all non-official visitors during non-visiting hours and they must be produced on demand. The routes from the various usual points of entry to the Secretariat to the Reception Officer have been marked at intervals by cards bearing arrow marks.

Interviews with Secretariat Officers will as usual be arranged by the Reception Officer during all working hours.

[January 29]

Producers'-*cum*-consumers' societies in Andhra

It has been brought to the notice of Government that there is a strong separatist tendency especially in the villages of the Kistna district and a number of representations are being received to the effect that societies should be formed for smaller units and not for the units as originally constituted. In several cases, villagers brought cash collections of Rs. 50,000 and above to the local authorities and offered to subscribe the required share capital if the authorities agreed to constitute a society for their village or for a small group of villages. While the Government appreciate this awakening amongst the producers as regards the benefits of the scheme to the ryot in particular, they strongly deprecate this separatist outlook which in the long run will be most harmful to their own interests. The original grouping of societies was carefully done and villages were grouped together after taking into consideration physical contiguity, economic stability, procurable surplus, etc. The Government are satisfied that generally societies with less than 5,000 tons procurement will not be economically sound and have therefore to advise the public against too many smaller societies. One of the reasons advanced in favour of smaller units is that the dominant faction within the smaller unit will be able to run the society smoothly. The Government consider this argument fallacious and do not wish to constitute these economic units on the foundations of village factions. These co-operative organizations are intended to bring people together and not divide them. The Government are convinced that in larger units of six to seven villages each, even a dominant faction from one village will be helpless when faced with totally different groups from other villages and there is every chance of unity arising out of such diversity. The device of Representative General Body adopted in these societies where every hundred shareholders will vote one representative to the Representative General Body consisting of about hundred representatives, who in turn will proceed to elect seven directors will also have the effect of neutralising local factions and promoting harmony. In the light of these considerations, the Government desire the public to drop their request for smaller societies and give all help to the local officers to form the societies according to the original grouping.

[January 31]

Control of coconut transport

In G.O. Ms. No. 2, dated 1st January 1947, Government have passed orders to the effect that no person shall with effect on and from the date of publication of that order transport coconut, copra or coconut oil by rail, road, canal or sea from any district in this province to any place in India outside the said district except under and in accordance with the terms and conditions of a

permit issued by the Collector of the district concerned or the Commissioner of Civil Supplies. As a result a large number of dealers and producers are applying to the Commissioner of Civil Supplies for permits to export coconuts, copra or coconut oil. A scrutiny of these applications has revealed that the proposed movement is only within the province. For the information of the general public it is hereby notified that Collectors of districts are themselves competent to issue permits either for the export or for the import of coconuts, copra or coconut oil so long as the movement is confined to the province. It is only for purposes of exporting the stuff beyond or outside the province that permits from the Commissioner of Civil Supplies are necessary. In respect of inter-district movements it is unnecessary for people to take the trouble of going over to Madras for obtaining export permits.

[January 31]

Unemployed I.N.A. personnel

Indian National Army personnel who seek employment in vacancies reserved for candidates with war service in the Subordinate and Inferior Services should apply in person at the offices of the Special Assistants to the Collectors (Ex-Service men's Resettlement) in their districts before 28th February 1947. The Special Assistants will give necessary instructions and advice and supply application forms for posts for which the personnel wish to apply. Every applicant should produce, before applying, a certificate from the Secretary, Indian National Army Relief Committee, 8, Narasingapuram, Mount Road, Madras, containing the following particulars :—

(1) Name of the candidate.
(2) Rank held.
(3) Date of enrolment in the Army/Navy, or Air Force or any other war service.
(4) Date of discharge.
(5) Date of enrolment in the I.N.A.
(6) Date of discharge.

[February 1]

Distribution of agricultural requirements

Sometime ago criticisms appeared in the press regarding the distribution of manures, seeds and implements by the Agricultural Department. These criticisms, which were generally to the effect that the distribution as done at present was not helpful to the ryots, have been examined by the Government and they wish to place before the public the relevant facts and figures.

Manures, seeds and implements had been in short supply owing to war conditions and their control was therefore assumed by the Government to ensure equitable distribution. The results achieved may be briefly stated.

The main categories of manures dealt with were oil cakes and chemical manures. The former consisted mainly of groundnut cakes and castor cakes while the latter had such varieties as ammonium sulphate, ammonium phosphate, super phosphate and bone meal. The supply position regarding groundnut oil cakes was acute during 1946, mainly because local production had fallen and imports had ceased. Government therefore had to order the total procurement of oilcakes from power mills and presses through the Agricultural Department and distribute them in an equitable manner. This was done in the case of other cakes also. The total quantity of manures distributed during the year ended October 1946 amounted to 162,013 tons as against 106,008 in the corresponding period of the previous year. The Agricultural Department also sold 7,668 tons or 107,500 bags of improved strains of paddy seeds during the same period. Other seeds sold included Daincha, sun hemp, kolingi and pillipessuru, improved strains of millets and groundnuts. Distribution of vegetable seeds has been a speciality of all agricultural depots and a separate depot for the distribution exists in the Madras City.

Iron and steel were also distributed in a similar manner with an eye to the needs of the agriculturists. The Agricultural Department obtained 24,851 tons of iron and steel up to the end of September 1946 and they are distributed through agricultural depots. A considerable quantity and variety of implements, 33 kinds in number, were also sold and these ranged from ploughshares to P.S.G. Ridgers. A few sample figures of implements sold are extracted below :—

Ploughshares	107,331
Cattle shoes	32,138
Spades and mamooties	52,880
Crowbars	17,672
Hand hoes	17,996
Manvetty blades	27,053

The department has also taken up the purchase and distribution of pumps, engines, and pipes for irrigation purposes and to accelerate the sinking of new wells.

It will be seen from the above facts that beneficial results were achieved as a result of distribution of these materials through Government agency.

[February 6]

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Tenders for groundnut oil

Several enquiries are being received about the continuance of the system of control over groundnut oil and kernel in its present form. The matter is still under consideration. In the meantime it is necessary to find an outlet for the oil which has accumulated in the mills if the mills are to continue to work. The tenders that have been accepted for kernel and oil will, therefore, be enforced in respect of the rates and quantities in accordance with the tenders. But as the orders were communicated late, it will not be possible for the tenderers to complete the deliveries before 31st January 1947 as originally notified. Time for completing the deliveries is therefore extended till 28th February 1947.

Such of the accepted tenderers who have not yet paid their surcharge and taken permits are requested to do so immediately. The amount of surcharge due to Government should be calculated at ½ per sent on the value of the tendered quantity calculated at rates accepted for naked kernel or oil only. The surcharge may be remitted in any branch of the Imperial Bank or in any sub-treasury. The appropriate credit head of treasury account is

"LI—Extraordinary receipts—Receipts of the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies)—Surcharge on groundnut kernel and oil."

For the information of the accepted tenderers the names of the inspecting agents who are responsible for lifting the tendered quantities are once again published below—

List of Inspeting Agents.

Province or Administration.	Name of the Inspecting Agents approved by Government.	Remarks.
	United Provinces Northern India Factories.	
1. Ganesh Flour Mills, Limited, P.O. Box No. 15, New Delhi.	Mr. Gokalchand, Representative, Ganesh Flour Mills Limited.	For Adoni and Cuddapah sections.
	Rishi Trading Co., Dhanasingh Buildings, Kurnool.	Kurnool and Dhronachalam sections.
2. Modi Vanaspathi Manufacturing Co., P.O. Modinagar, Meerut.	1. Oil Purchase Depot, Modi Vanaspathi Manufacturing Co., Minchin Bazaar Road, Kurnool Town.	Kurnool-Dronachalam Sections —Adoni.
	2. Sudershanam, Limited, Dare House, Esplanade, Madras.	Guntur—Bezwada section—Nandyal, and Narasaraopet.
3. Burma	1. Messrs. Ralli Brothers, Limited, Madras ..	Madras.
	2. Sudershanam, Limited, Dare House, Esplanade, Madras.	Vizagapatam and Cocanada.
4. Bengal Snow White Food Products, Limited, Vanaspathi Factory, Calcutta.	Do	Guntur
5. Orissa	Do.	....
6. Rhotas Industries, Limited, Dalmianagar, Bihar.	Rhotas Industries, Limited, Guntur	Vizagapatam, Bezwada and Guntur areas.
7. Bombay Vanaspathy	Messrs. Ralli Bros., Madras	....
8. Mysore	Messrs. Sudarsanam Limited	....
9. Bengal	Messrs. Haji Kadir Bux Nurul Huda, No. 10, Tiretta Bazaar Street, Calcutta.	....

The inspecting agents of the Bengal Government may take some time to complete their arrangements for lifting the quotas allotted to them. Such of the accepted tenderers who are anxious to make early deliveries are given the option of delivering their stuff for Burma instead of for Bengal. If they choose to avail themselves of this option all that is necessary for them to do is to hand over the oil at Vizagapatam port instead of at the station of delivery ordered in the tender form. The agents of the Burma Government are prepared to pay the tenderers the additional Railway freight and 1 per cent cost, to cover leakage in transit. Tenderers who accept this proposal are requested to intimate the fact to the Deputy Commissioner (Civil Supplies) by 10th February 1947. For further details they may contact the inspecting agents of the Burma

Government for Nothern areas, i.e., Messrs. Sudarsanam, Limited, Dare House, Madras.

Messrs. Rally Bros. and Sudarsanam, Limited, who are the inspecting agents for some of the quota holders have undertaken to collect from the accepted tenderers the surcharge due to Government and to pay it in a lump at Madras. Such of the tenderers who have to deliver their stuff to these inspecting agents and who have not yet paid the surcharge amount into the treasury or bank may, if they so choose, pay the amount due to these inspecting agents. They will pay the surcharge to the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) and obtain the necessary permits on behalf of the tenderers.

In the permits issued by the Board's office the names of the consignee and place of destination will be left blank. The inspecting agents are requested to fill up these blanks before using the permits.

The accepted tenderers have thus the option of delivering their quantities to the Bengal Government when their inspecting agents complete the arrangements for taking delivery ; or if they want immediate cash for the tendered quantity they can divert their stuff to Burma and receive payment from the inspecting agents concerned ; or sell it in the local market for the local consumption at the notified rates in force at the time when tenders were offered.

[February 1]

Ceiling prices for coconut

The Government of India have fixed the ceiling prices for copra at Madras and Cochin ports at Rs. 936 and Rs. 884 and of coconut oil at Rs. 1,456 and Rs. 1,390 per ton respectively. On the basis of these prices, the Madras Government have now fixed the wholesale and retail prices of coconuts, copra and coconut oil as follows :—

Coconuts

Malabar and South Kanara districts—Rs. 125 per 1,000 nuts wholesale, and 2 annas 3 pies for single nut.

Other districts—Rs. 170 per 1,000 nuts and 3 annas for a single nut.

Copra

Malabar and South Kanara districts—Wholesale price Rs. 32–7–7 per imperial maund. Retail price Rs. 1–5–1 per viss of 120 tolas.

Other districts—Wholesale price Rs. 34–6–2 per imperial maund. Retail price Rs. 1–6–5 per viss of 120 tolas.

Coconut Oil

Malabar and South Kanara—Wholesale price Rs. 24–8–0 per tin of 35 lb. (inclusive of container). Retail Rs. 2–3–3 per viss of 120 tolas.

Other districts—Wholesale price Rs. 26–2–3 per tin of 35 lb. (inclusive of container). Retail price Rs. 2–7–0 per viss of 120 tolas.

The above prices are exclusive of sales tax.

Exports of coconuts, copra and coconut oil from one district to another, and outside the province of Madras, but within India, will be on permits issued by the Collector of the district concerned, or the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras.

Applications for coconut oil required by soap makers, hair oil makers, and other industrial users, should be made to the Collector of Malabar through the District Industries Officers concerned.

[February 3]

Private dealers' employees

Representations have been received from the clerks and other employees of private dealers in the Circar districts that they are being thrown out of employment as a result of the formation of the Producers' cum Consumers' Co-operative Societies and that they should be saved from such unemployment. The societies require considerable clerical subordinate staff and the experience and the knowledge of these employees will be undoubtedly useful for the societies. The Government have therefore issued instructions that as many of these employees as possible should be provided for in the new secieties.

[February 6]

Price of coconut punnac fixed

The Government have considered the question of control of coconut punnac in consultation with the President of the Malabar Millers' Association. They have decided that the price of coconut punnac should be fixed at Rs. 255 per ton throughout the districts of Malabar and South Kanara.

The Government have ordered that no export of coconut punnac should be allowed to places outside the districts of Malabar and South Kanara as the cattle in Malabar and South Kanara districts have no other concentrate for feeding.

The price of Rs. 255 per ton of coconut punnac will be enforced in regard to the existing stock also.

The Collectors of Malabar and South Kanara have been requested to take action according to the Government's orders referred to above.

[February 7]

Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' societies

Regarding the organization of Producers'—cum—Consumers' Societies, the Government have observed that there is a feeling that co-operative societies usually incur loss. There is nothing in the Co-operative Societies Act which should lead to the working of a co-operative society at a loss and the belief current in some quarters is a reflection on the capacity of the people to work for the common good. The Government have called for figures of the 54 Producers-cum-Consumers' Societies in Malabar which have completed one complete business quarter and find the following facts which are of general interest :—

(*a*) The highest recorded profit was 50 per cent.

(*b*) 14 societies made profits ranging from 20 to 50 per cent.

(*c*) 6 societies made profits varying from 15 to 20 per cent.

(*d*) 12 societies made profits varying from 10 to 15 per cent.

(*e*) 14 societies made profits varying from 5 to 10 per cent.

(*f*) 6 societies made profits under 5 per cent.

(*g*) 2 societies incurred loss of $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent and $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

It was also observed in the actual working of these newly formed societies that societies with less than Rs. 50,000 share capital were not as profit-yielding as societies with over Rs. 50,000 share capital and in the light of that experience the Government have not allowed any society to be constituted in the four Circar districts with less than Rs. 50,000 share capital.

[February 6]

Cloth distribution through co-ops. postponed

" In view of the representations made to Government that merchants who will be eliminated under the decision to distribute mill cloth in the Malabar district exclusively through the agency of the Producers'-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies should be given some time to enable them to adjust themselves to the changed conditions and as it will also take some time for the Producers'-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies to make adequate arrangements for the distribution of mill cloth, the Government have decided to postpone the introduction of the revised arrangements to 1st June 1947. For the same reasons the Government have also directed that the decision to utilize the existing co-operative societies (which may be organized hereafter) for the distribution of cloth and yarn in districts other than Malabar should be similarly deferred till the end of May 1947."

[February 6]

No more bonus or price increase

It has come to the notice of Government that producers are withholding the sales of surplus stocks of paddy and rice, and other foodgrains to the Government agents under the impression that by postponing sales to a later period in the year they will be getting increased prices or bonuses. Items of news are also appearing in the press that the Madras Government have pressed upon the Government of India for an increase in the price of paddy. The public are informed that the Government have no intention at present of giving any bonuses to the ryots during the course of the year for the sale of any foodgrains and that the Government of India are against any increase over existing prices. Producers who hold on to the stocks in the hope of an increase in price therefore stand to be disappointed. They are advised to sell the surplus stocks immediately to Government procuring agents and not to incur the loss involved by storage in the hope that there will be any increase in prices.

As the position in deficit districts still continues to be very unsatisfactory, the Government wish to impress upon all producers having surpluses that they will have to strictly enforce the procurement rules for obtaining the surpluses available with the ryots, to prevent breakdown of rationing in the deficit districts if this note does not produce the desired effect.

[February 7]

Quarry workers' strike

The contract labour working in the quarries of the Coimbatore Cement Works, Madukkarai, struck work on 9th December 1946, demanding various concessions including higher rates of pay, payment of dearness allowance and bonus, short working hours, provision of accommodation and other facilities and of gun powder and fuse at the rates at which the Company sold them. Various efforts have been made to effect an amicable settlement but all these have failed. It has now been represented to Government that, as the adjudicator found recently in favour of the abolition of contract labour, the workers would go back to work if the Government made it clear

to them that they proposed to implement the award. The Government wish to make it clear that acceptance of the award by them was tantamount to an assurance that findings of the award would be duly implemented. They have accordingly asked the Company to take steps to abolish contract labour. They also wish to assure the workers that arrangements will be made for the supply to them of gun powder and fuse at the company rates. They hope that in view of these assurances, the workers will go back to the quarries without delay.

[February 7]

Export of jaggery

In their Press Note, dated 24th January 1947, the Government have announced that the exports of jaggery from this province to other deficit provinces and states who were allotted quotas by the Gur Controller for India will be arranged on Government to Government basis on tender system. The Government have since reconsidered the matter and owing to practical difficulties encountered in working the tender system have decided to revive the old policy of allowing exports by the merchants of this province on permit system as was done last year.

The Government have also decided to allow exports to the following Administrations from the districts noted against each during the current year.

Administration.	*District from which xports will be made.*
Bengal (cane jaggery).	Vizagapatam.
Orissa and States (cane jaggery).	Do.
Central Provinces and Berar (cane jaggery).	Vizagapatam and Chittoor
Hyderabad (cane jaggery).	Chittoor and Bellary.
Cochin (cane jaggery).	Coimbatore, Salem and North Arcot.
Coorg (cane jaggery).	Coimbatore.
Bangalore (cane jaggery).	Chittoor.
Travancore (palmyra jaggery).	Tinnevelly.

A surcharge of Re. 0-2-0 per imperiel maund will be collected on all exports of Gur to areas outside the province during the current year. Permits will be issued by the Collectors of the districts concerned to their merchants in accordance with the despatching instructions issued by the Importing Administrations. The merchants and stockists may, therefore. apply to the Collectors in the matter.

[February 8]

Madras drugs Rules

The Madras Drugs Rules, 1945, were published in an extra-ordinary issue of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 22nd December 1945. Under sub-rule (3) of rule 1 of the rules, they shall come into force on such date as the Provincial Government may, by notification in the official gazette, appoint. The Government have decided to bring into force the rules and Chapter IV of the Drugs Act, 1940, in this Province with effect from 1st April 1947. The necessary notifications will be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

[February 13]

Coimbatore textile strike

The mill-owners at Coimbatore announced the grant of a three months bonus to the workers in the textile mills in September last year. Representations were made to the Minister for Industries and Labour by the Coimbatore textile mill workers urging the raising of their basic wages and for an increase in the quantum of bonus. The Minister for Labour met the representatives of the mill-owners and the Coimbatore District Textile Workers' Union in the last week of October 1946 and discussed the issues raised, but no settlement could be effected, as neither of the parties was willing to come to an agreement.

As the public are aware, the Government of Madras appointed a Court of Enquiry in July 1946, to examine the conditions of service of labour in the textile industry of this province with a view to better the lot of the workers and its work is now nearing completion. However, in view of the fact that the workers demanded an interim award with respect to wages, and an immediate decision on the question of bonus, the Court of Enquiry appointed an adjudicator and asked to adjudicate on the questions.

The Adjudicator's award gave the workers at Coimbatore, substantial increases in the basic wages, which in 75 per cent of the cases were over 80 per cent of the existing wage, some getting 100 per cent or more. The Adjudicator also considered that the bonus already declared, viz., three months basic wages was adequate. At the same time, he announced that the substantial increase in the basic wages would take effect from

1st October 1946 and that the retrospective effect thus given to the enhanced rates of wages would result in the workers getting another three months wages. These findings were accepted by the Government and the mill-owners have also agreed to give effect to the decisions of the Adjudicator.

The District Textile Workers' Union, however, persisted in their original demand for payment of six months wages as bonus instead of three months agreed to by the mill-owners, and issued a notice of strike from 13th January 1947.

It must be remembered that once the award is given by the adjudicator and approved by Government, it is final and binding on parties. After the present Government took charge, awards of adjudicators have been respected in all cases. The Hon'ble the Prime Minister who was in Delhi about the time this dispute arose flew to Madras and then proceeded to Coimbatore. He met the representatives of both the parties on 12th January 1947 and tried his best to intervene and effect a settlement of the dispute, apart from the award of the Adjudicator which cannot be questioned by any one under the law. At the Prime Minister's request, action was postponed pending further discussions at Madras. The parties met the Prime Minister in Madras on 17th January 1947, 18th January 1947, 1st February 1947 and 7th February 1947 and voluntarily agreed to discuss the matter further amongst themselves, the discussion covering not only the question of bonus but other matters affecting "future peace in the industry."

The Prime Minister was glad of this decision and he desired the parties to come to a voluntary agreement. It was understood after the discussion on 7th February 1947 that the strike would be postponed to a date after the 12th February (to 13th or 14th) but the strike has however been declared on the 12th February. This statement is issued in order that the public may be aware of the circumstances that have led to the strike.

[February 13]

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Restrictions on parties

Of late the Government have been receiving numerous applications for exemption from the order restricting feeding at parties other than marriage parties to thirty. Requests have also been received from charitable institutions, temples, and persons connected with temples requesting that they may be allowed to feed more than 30 persons on religious occasions and that they may be permitted to appropriate the necessary food grains from the produce of the lands belonging to individuals or institutions for the purpose. As a relaxation from the severe austerity measures that were so long enforced by the Government and cheerfully borne by the people, the Government have been allowing the requests in these cases during the last two months. Applications however still continue to come in.

While the rice position has no doubt slightly improved this year, all the existing and prospective resources have to be conserved to the end of raising the ration from its present low level of 10 oz. to at least 12 oz. per adult per day. Though the Government have raised the rice part of the ration to 10 oz. in many districts, they have been unable to give effect to the increase in three districts owing to want of sufficient stocks of rice. After enough stocks are built up, the rice ration in these districts will have to be raised to 10 oz. and later on the question of increasing the ration to 12 oz. in all districts will have to be considered.

Hitherto, it was possible to allow the use of wheat or other cereals except rice in the preparations to be served at parties given to more than 30 persons. But the wheat position is getting more difficult owing to the scarcity that has developed in North India and the anticipated delay in imports from overseas. A situation has arisen now in which the issue of wheat to cardholders except those who are habitual wheat eaters has to be restricted if not absolutely prohibited and in that case maize has to replace wheat. No further quotas of wheat or maize are expected during the next two months.

In this situation, the Government will not be in a position to entertain any further applications for exemption from the 30 persons order. The public are therefore requested to appreciate the position and co-operate with the Government by desisting from sending applications for exemption which in the circumstances explained above, will have to be rejected.

In this connexion Government would remind the public that there is no objection to serving drinks, fruits, nuts and cakes and biscuits made out of non-cereals for more than 30 persons and no application for exemption is necessary in such cases. The public are advised to restrict the menu to these items alone when they have to give a party to more than 30 persons.

[February 13]

Work of the Aboriginal Tribes Welfare Committee

The Aboriginal Tribes Welfare Enquiry Committee which was formed by the Madras Government with Mr. Raghaviah as chairman toured all the Andhra districts, Malabar and South Kanara till now. It may begin its Tamil Nad tour about the middle of this month. The Committee has been permitted by the Government to tour His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Dominions for studying the uplift measures that have been taken by that Government so far, as well as the Central Provinces where ameliorative measures have been taken to improve the conditions of the aboriginal tribes of that province.

The Committee in the course of its tours has been able to study at first hand the conditions of the several tribes in their native surroundings and has collected valuable evidence about their methods of living, their folk-lore and their means of living. They have examined several witnesses who could give them valuable information about the tribal civilization and who could suggest means of putting an end to exploitation which is rampant among the innocent tribal people. The Committee has also investigated into the possibility of having additional occupations by way of cottage industries to be started in the tribal localities. It has examined the Wynaad and the Araku Colonization schemes, the latter of which is devoted entirely for the betterment of the aboriginal people and on which the Madras Government has spent a good deal of money for reclaiming several thousands of acres for cultivation. It is brought to the notice of the Committee that malaria has been the greatest impediment in the way of improving the tribal population, particularly in the Agency tracts where the incidence of malaria has been very large despite the effective measures taken by the Government so far. That want of communications in the tribal zones has also been another great factor contributing to the backwardness of these tribes has been brought home to the Committee by the several workers who have spent their lives in the service of the aboriginals.

Equitable distribution of coconut oil

As serious shortage of coconut oil has been reported from the various consuming centres, the Government have decided to make the following arrangements for its procurement and proper distribution :—

The Collectors of importing districts will nominate the required number of co-operative societies who will be the consignees and who will import the requirements of the districts from Malabar. The Collector of Malabar will issue permits only to those applicants who are willing to consign oil to the co-operative societies nominated by the Collectors of the importing districts. The co-operative societies should satisfy themselves regarding the quality, weight and containers by sending their representatives to Malabar to inspect the oil before despatch. The imported oil should be distributed by the co-operative societies as widely and equitably as possible under the orders of the Collectors.

[February 14]

Elections to local bodies

In a Press Communiqué, dated 13th December 1946, the Government have specified the President of the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee as the authority which should issue certificates to official Congress candidates at elections to Municipal Councils and the District Board in the Bellary district. The Government have decided, in partial modification of the instructions in the above communiqué that the official Congress candidates in respect of Alur, Adoni and Rayadrug taluks of the Bellary district alone should produce as their credentials the certificates issued by the President, Andhra Provincial Congress Committee, while such candidate in respect of the six taluks of the Bellary district specified below should produce as their credentials individual certificates from the President of the Bellary Karnataka District Congress Committee instead of from the President, Andhra Provincial Congress Committee :

1. Bellary.
2. Hospet.
3. Siruguppa.
4. Harpanahalli.
5. Hadagalli.
6. Kudligi.

[February 12]

Beginning of new Phase of World Monetary Co-operation

The following statement by the International Monetary Fund concerning initial par values has been released for simultaneous publication in all Member countries :—

"The International Monetary Fund will begin exchange transactions on March 1, 1947. The transactions of the Fund will be at the initial par values which have been determined in the manner laid down in the Fund Agreement. The par value of each currency is stated in the schedule below. Eight of the 29 Members of the Fund—Brazil, China, the Dominican Republic, Greece, Poland, Yugoslavia, France in respect of French Indo-China, and the Netherlands in respect of the Netherlands Indies—have requested, in accordance with Article XX, Section 4 of the Agreement, more time for the determination of their initial par values, and the Fund has agreed. Pending the completion of certain legislative proceedings in Uruguay, the initial par value of its currency has not yet been definitely established.

"This is the first time that a large number of nations have submitted their exchange rates to consideration by an International Organization, and thus a new phase of International Monetary Co-operation has begun. The major significance of the present step is not in the particular rates of exchange which are announced, but in the fact that the participating nations have now fully established a regime wherein they are pledged to promote exchange stability, to make no changes in the par values of their currencies except in accordance with the Fund Agreement, and to assist each other in attaining the general objectives of the Fund.

Initial par values

"The initial par values are, in all cases, those which have been proposed by Members, and they are based on existing rates of exchange. The acceptance of these rates is not, however, to be interpreted as a guarantee by the Fund that all the rates will remain unchanged. As the Executive Directors of the Fund stated in their first annual report, issued in September, 'We recognize that in some cases the initial par values that are established may later be found incompatible with the maintenance of a balanced international payments position at a high level of domestic economic activity. When this occurs, the Fund will be faced with new circumstances under which the initial par values were determined. It is just at such times that the Fund can be most useful in seeing that necessary exchange adjustments are made in an orderly manner and competitive exchange depreciation is avoided.'

"The Fund realizes that at the present exchange rates there are substantial disparities in price and wage levels among a number of countries. In present circumstances, however, such disparities do not have the same significance as in normal times.

"For practically all countries, exports are being limited mainly by difficulties of production or transport, and the wide gaps which exist in some countries between the cost of needed imports and proceeds of exports would not be appreciably narrowed by changes in their currency parities. In addition, many countries have just begun to recover from the disruption of war and efforts to restore the productivity of their economics may be expected gradually to bring their cost structures into line with those of other countries. Further more for many countries now concerned with combating inflation there is a danger that a change in the exchange rate would aggravate the internal currencies toward inflation.

"In view of all these considerations, the Fund has reached the conclusion that the proper course of action is to accept as initial par values the existing rates of exchange."

Schedule of par values exchange

Illustrative figures from the schedule of par values in currency units per United States dollar are—

United States dollar ..	4 shillings 11·553 pence.
Canadian dollar	1·00000.
Indian rupee	3·30852.
Egyptian pound ..	0·241955.
French franc	119·107.
Belgian franc	43·8265.
Netherlands guilder ..	2·65285.

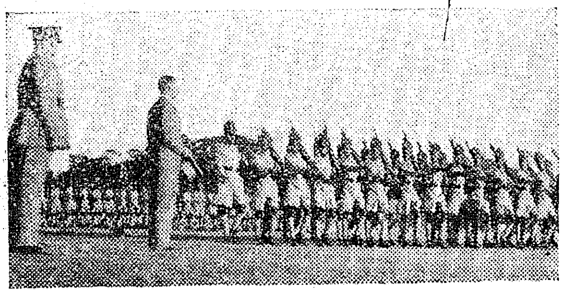
For French possession in India parity for the local rupee has been established at 26 French francs.

Every Official is a Servant of the People

Governor's Advice to Police Force

[In the course of his speech at the Police Medal parade, His Excellency Sir Archibald Nye observed that if good citizens regard the police force as oppressive there must be something wrong with the police. The following are a few extracts from His Excellency's speech.]

"As you know, the grant of certain honours has been discontinued at the request of the major political parties in India. At the same time, these parties have agreed that the grant of Police



On 7th February H.E. Lieutenant-General Sir Archibald Nye, G.C.I.E., K.C.B., K.B.E., M.C., Governor of Madras, presented Sanads and Medals to Police and Fire Service personnel

Medals should continue. I think, therefore, that you may reasonably assume that the chief political parties in India fully recognize the importance of the work which the Police Force is doing and the need for giving it suitable recognition.

"The policeman is faced with a very difficult task. He frequently finds himself in situations of great complexity and runs a grave risk, whatever he may do, of severe criticism. I would like to suggest to you that your task may become less difficult if you bear in mind a few important factors. The first is this. *Every official, from the Governor down to the most junior constable in this Province, is the servant of the people.* No official should regard himself as a man divorced from the people of the Province, as a man puffed up with pride merely because in certain circumstances he is able to wield some authority; he should not think of himself as an agent of some exterior organization imposed upon the people from without, he should not order people about in a rude and imperious manner, nor in any way take advantage of his position. A policeman is basically, first and foremost, a citizen. He differs from a citizen only in that to carry out his duties he must belong to a disciplined force and may be armed with lethal weapons. It follows, therefore, that if the police force is a good one, all good people should regard the policeman as their friend and their protector, a man to whom they can go in their troubles and their difficulties, from whom they will be sure of receiving not only help but invariable courtesy. If good citizens regard the police force as oppressors, you may be quite sure there is something wrong with the police.

"Every man irrespective of his race, his creed or his politics, has a right to demand protection for himself, his family and his property, and it is the first duty of the Government to afford that protection to its people. All Governments the world over ultimately rest upon force, and it is through the police force that the Government exercises this responsibility to the people. It is,

(Continued on page 23)

Photo taken on the occasion of the presentation of Sanads and Medals to the police and Fire Service personnel

PROHIBITION NEWS

Chittoor.—During the fortnight two ballad singers conducted three Kathakalakshepams at Renigunta, Narasingapuram and Punganur. Bhajana parties were also conducted by the ballad singers in four villages.

The Assistant Development Officer was able to collect Rs. 5,500 from the villagers towards National Savings Certificates.

In the villages of Velkur, Dighuvamagham, Keenatipalle, Paimagham and Aragonda villagers have done excellent work themselves in repairing streets, sweeping them clean, removing manure pits away from residential quarters, preventing drains from entering village streets, laying out roads to connect the villages from the main roads, etc. The Special Development Officer visited three of the above five villages.

Anantapur.—His Excellency Sir Archibald Nye, Governor of Madras, visited this district during this month. The first village visited by His Excellency was Chilamathur where counter attractions like rural games and bhajanas have been introduced. His Excellency witnessed the display of the following items :—

(1) Chodugudu, (2) Badminton, (3) Sugali Dance (folk dance), (4) Kho-kho, (5) Kolatam and (6) Pandari Bhajana.

Salem.—During the second fortnight of January 1947, the Hosur Taluk Rural Uplift Conference was conducted at Kolamangalam and Sri Linga Raju, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Land Revenue, presided over the occasion. Sri S. Nagaraja Maniagar, M.A., M.L.A, opened the conference.

Two co-operative stores societies, were inaugurated at Mallur and Tholasampatti.

A conference of representatives of Weavers' Co-operative Societies was held at Taramangalam presided over by the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Salem. The question of increasing the number of looms and formation of more weavers' societies was discussed. The Special Development Officer, Salem, spoke about admission of tappers knowing weaving in Weavers' Co-operative Societies, installation of radios and organization of volley ball and other games.

The Kamalapuram Harijan Uplift Sangam was inaugurated on 26th January 1947.

Employment of ex-tappers.—Thirty-one Tappers' Co-operative Societies have been revived and tapping licences were given for manufacture of palmyra jaggery. During the fortnight 9 new Tappers' Co-operative Societies have been formed of which four have been started on their work. The Assistant Development Officer issued 1,259 licences to members of 35 Tappers' Co-operative Societies.

RE-SETTLEMENT NEWS

Chingleput

The District Employment office is functioning in this district with effect from 1st January 1947. The Assistant Manager in charge of the District Employment office has interviewed 324 ex-servicemen and registered them for employment. The total number registered up to the end of the fortnight is 2,906 and the number placed in civil employment is 433.

The Meyyur-Gudapakkam Ex-service men Co-operative Agricultural Colonization Society, Ltd.—Eleven members of the colony are residing in the houses constructed for them. At present there are 21 members in this colony. An extent of 62 acres which has been allotted to them in the dry block has been cultivated with blackgram, horsegram, ragi and varagu. Due to heavy rains in December 1946 all the crops except varagu did not come up to expectations. The horsegram crop sown just before the rains was damaged and only scattered portions have survived here and there. The blackgram and horsegram crops in the high level areas are in fair condition.

Tinnevelly

The number of men placed up to the end of the fortnight is 1,752.

The third trial bore at Gangaikondan has been completed. The Director of Resettlement has been addressed to obtain the sanction of the Government for going ahead with the scheme. Sixty-three applications have so far been received and registered.

Bellary

Two ex-servicemen were appointed as clerks and one ex-serviceman was appointed as male nursing orderly during the fortnight under report.

The two Land Colonization Schemes, i.e., one at Bellary and the other at Tungabhadra, are still

in initial stage. The estimates, etc., in respect of the Land Colonization Scheme at Bellary are pending technical scrutiny by the Superintending Engineer, Anantapur Circle, while those relating to the Land Colonization Scheme at Tungabhadra are pending with the Revenue Divisional Officer, Adoni.

Guntur

One hundred and ninety-six ex-servicemen were registered during the fortnight ending 31st January 1947 and 10 persons were employed.

The number of ex-servicemen registered and employed up to the end of the fortnight is 3,453 and 816 respectively.

A Motor Transport Co-operative Society for ex-servicemen has been sanctioned for establishment at Guntur.

Nellore

The two Colonization Schemes at Chintaldevi and Veligandla villages of Kavali are pending approval by Government.

Motor Transport Co-operative Society for Ex-servicemen.—Intensive propaganda has been made for popularising the scheme and 40 drivers, 54 cleaners, 1 foreman mechanic, 4 fitter mechanics, 3 watchmen and peons, 1 clerk, 2 managers and 1 store-keeper have contributed an amount of Rs. 17,461–4–0 towards initial deposit and entrance fees.

Madras

The number of ex-servicemen registered from 16th to 31st January 1947 is 933. During this period demand for these men numbering 281 was received from various offices in the city for appointment and in most cases they have been complied with. The practice of appointing outsiders without preferring ex-servicemen has not been completely given up by the appointing authorities.

A society called "The Madras Tailors' Co-operative Society for Ex-servicemen" has been registered and it is expected that the society will start work from 3rd February 1947. Necessary sewing machines and other articles have also been secured.

The work connected with the formation of the Motor Transport Co-operative Society has been started and so far 40 applications have been received. An initial share capital amounting to Rs. 9,145–8–0 has also been collected from them. It is expected the work will progress soon. Selection of sites has also been made, though not finally approved.

South Kanara

Out of nearly 6,000 persons recruited from the South Kanara district, 2,008 persons have registered their names for civil employment after having returned home on demobilization.

Five hundred and eight persons out of these, have been placed in employment, 109 have started their own business or are not in need of assistance; 74 have left the district seeking employment elsewhere and 1,317 remain to be employed.

Cuddapah

Sixty-six ex-servicemen have been registered during the fortnight bringing up the total number registered to 1,489. The number of ex-servicemen placed in employment during the fortnight is 24 and the total number appointed up to the fortnight is 379. The placements so far made in Government posts are temporary.

The Land Colony at Pullampet is being got ready. Trial borings have been made ready for six wells. Two irrigation wells and one drinking water well are under execution. The matter is under correspondence with the Civil Liaison Officer, Vizagapatam, with regard to the clearance of the jungle growth with army help on land set apart for the Colony. Thirty applications for membership in the Land Colonization Co-operative Society have been received.

Coal Control

The Government of India have transferred the responsibility of coal distribution, on account of tobacco-curing concerns, to the Provincial Coal Controller (Director of Industries and Commerce) with effect from September 1946.

A conference of the coal dealers and a representative of Messrs. Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Company, Limited, was held on the 22nd June 1946, in the office of the Director of Industries and Commerce, Madras, under the chairmanship of the Provincial Coal Controller, Madras. Several questions regarding the source of supplies, the method of distribution, arrangements for procuring coal, payment, etc., were discussed in the conference.

To have a check over the distribution it has been decided to appoint Inspectors at Bezwada, Guntur, Chirala and Ongole. These Inspectors will have the assistance of an advisory body consisting of five members taken from among the tobacco-curing ryots, the tobacco-growers' associations, marketing committees, etc.

MAR 194 MADRAS

Government Departments at Work

I Revenue

The Government have decided to extend Prohibition to the districts of Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, the Nilgiris, Guntur and Nellore from 1st October 1947.

A sum of Rs. 21,000 was sanctioned on 6th February 1947 out of the Indian People's Famine Trust Fund for the purchase of sarees to be distributed to persons eligible for gratuitous relief in the districts of Bellary and Anantapur.

A sum of Rs. 3,000 was sanctioned on 6th February 1947 for the grant of relief to persons whose houses were damaged during the recent floods in Rajampet and Siddhout taluks in Cuddapah district.

A Bill to prevent speculation in land in the Tungabhadra area was published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* Extraordinary, dated 24th January 1947. In a Press Note the Government announced that speculative purchases of lands in the Project area would be prohibited by legislation. The Bill will be introduced in the current session of the Legislature.

A resolution was placed before the Legislative Assembly recommending the enhancement of the rates of tax on motor spirits. The resolution was passed by the Assembly on 30th January 1947. The following enhanced rates have come into force from 1st February 1947 :—

Rate of tax on petrol—From As. 1–6 to 4 annas.

Rate of tax on motor spirits other than petrol —From 6 pies to As. 1–6.

The following resolution was moved by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister in the Madras Legislative Council on 31st January 1947 :—

"This Council accepts the principle of the abolition of the zamindari system in this Province and recommends to Government that legislation for it, providing for payment of equitable compensation to zamindars and other intermediaries whose rights are to be acquired be brought forward at an early date."

The resolution was passed by the Legislative Council without division.

II Labour

In their Order Ms. No. 244, Development, dated 21st January 1946, the Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Beehive Foundry, Madras, regarding adequacy of the dearness allowance, increase of basic wages, leave facilities, etc., to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Ventaramayya for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules. The workers who were on strike from 16th December 1946 resumed work on 24th January 1947.

About 1,400 workers of the Chrome Leather Company, Chromepet, who struck work on 31st December 1946 demanding three months' wages as bonus, house-rent allowance, etc., are still on strike, refusing to resume work in batches as notified by the management. The management have cancelled their previous notification. The factory remains closed. It is understood that workers are finding casual employment in agriculture operations, etc.

The workers of Messrs. Hoe & Co., Madras, under the influence of the Madras Press Labour Union, struck work on 13th January 1947, demanding bonus, increased wages, dearness allowance of 4 annas for point of rise in the cost of living index figure, etc. As the management have, at the instance of the Commissioner of Labour, granted increased wages, dearness allowance at 3 annas a point above 100 in the cost of living index figure, provident fund, etc., the Commissioner of Labour advised the workers to resume work. The workers belonging to the Hoe & Co. Employees Association resumed work on 16th January 1947. The workers of the other union resorted to violent picketing without success. The number of workers now working in the press is about 250. Of these 167 are old workers and 83 new workers.

In their Order Ms. No. 245, Development, dated 21st January 1947, the Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Binny's Beach Engineering Works, Madras, regarding payment of bonus, dearness allowance, house-rent allowance, etc., to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules. The workers numbering about 1,000 who struck work on 9th January 1947 resumed work on 24th January 1947.

The General Secretary of the Automobile Workers' Union, Madras, has served a notice of strike on 22nd January 1947 on the managements of Messrs. Simpson & Co., Addison & Co., Ltd., George Oakes, Limited, and Sri Rama Vilas, Limited, intimating that the workers will go on strike after the expiry of 14 days of their demands

increased wages and dearness allowance, 3 months wages as bonus, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Labour Officer, Madras, is looking into the matter. The Commissioner of Labour has recommended to Government the appointment of a Court of Enquiry to examine the conditions of labour in transport bus and lorry services, workshops, engineering firms and type foundries in the Province.

In their Order No. 3677, Education and Public Health, dated 20th December 1946, the Government of Madras have ordered that there should be no victimization of the scavengers and conservancy menials who took part in the recent strike and that the cases pending in the Court should be withdrawn.

Sri Palamalai Ranganadhar Mills, Ltd., Periyanayakanpalayam, which was closed from 20th November 1946 was re-opened on 13th January 1947.

The Asher Textiles and the Dhanalakshmi Mills, Tiruppur, which remained closed from 10th December 1946 and 11th December 1946 respectively were reopened on 13th January 1947.

The quarry contract workers of the Coimbatore Cement Works, Madukkarai, are still on strike. The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, advised them to resume work; but they refused to do so unless all their demands were conceded by the quarry contractors. The factory was closed on 5th January 1947 for want of stones. The workers are demanding the reopening of the factory and payment of compensation for the period of involuntary unemployment.

About 175 workers of the Kumaran Mills, Coimbatore, staged a stay-in-strike for 40 minutes on 23rd January 1947 as a protest against the suspension of a spinning piecer. The suspended worker was admitted to work on his tendering an apology to the management.

The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, has reported that the District Textiles Workers Union, Singanallur, has issued a notice of general strike, dated 24th January 1947, with the same demands as those given in its original notice, dated 27th December 1946. According to this revised notice the general strike was to take place on 12th February 1947. The Hon'ble Premier and the Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Labour met the parties on 1st February 1947.

The power-house and clerical staff of the Kamala Mills, who struck work as a protest against the misbehaviour of the workers towards them, have agreed to resume work on 29th January 1947.

The Secretary, Andhra Paper Mills Workers Union, Rajahmundry, has served a notice of strike on the Andhra Paper Mills Company, Limited, Rajahmundry, on 2nd January 1947 intimating that the workers would go on strike from 24th January 1947 if their demands for recognition of the Union, payment of increased wages and dearness allowance, leave facilities, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has recommended to Government that the dispute may be referred to the District Judge, East Godavari, for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules. The Union has postponed the strike to 8th February 1947.

The Secretary of the Divisional Factory Workers Union, Gudivada, has reported that the workers of Sri Krishna Rice Mills, Arigoppula, struck work on 4th January 1947 as the management had refused to meet the demands of the workers for increase of wages and dearness allowance. The Labour Officer, Bezwada, and the District Magistrate, Kistna, have been asked to bring about a settlement of the dispute and to advise the workers to resume work pending the result of the Court of Enquiry recommended for Rice and Oil Mills in the Province. The orders of Government on the proposal of the Commissioner of Labour to appoint a Court of Enquiry for rice and oil mills in the Province are awaited.

The Secretary, Municipal Workers Union, Masulipatam, has issued a notice of strike intimating that the municipal employees would go on strike if their demands for increased wages, one month's salary as bonus, etc., are not conceded before 20th January 1947. The District Magistrate, Kistna, is looking into the matter.

The General Secretary, Mahalakshmi Mills Labour Union, Pasumalai, issued a notice of strike to the Manager, Mahalakshmi Textile Mills, Ltd., on 14th January 1947 intimating that the workers would go on strike from 28th January 1947 if the management did not concede the demands made in the union memorandum, dated 30th November 1946, and to grant interim relief to textile workers sanctioned in G.O. Ms. No. 4637, Development, dated 18th December 1946. The workers struck work on 28th January 1947.

The workers of the Shoranur Metal Industries have struck work. The management and the President of the Shoranur Metal Workers Union, have been asked to meet the Commissioner of Labour on or before 3rd February 1947 at Madras.

The President of the Standard Furniture Company Labour Union, Chalapuram, has issued a notice of strike on 17th January 1947 to the

Managing Director of the Company intimating that the workers will go on strike on 10th February 1947 if their demands for increased wages, reinstatement of workers, etc., are not conceded. The Commissioner of Labour visited Calicut on 28th January 1947 and discussed the demands with the management and representatives of the union and suggested certain terms for settlement. The Labour Officer, Calicut, has been asked to take further action in the matter.

The Standard Tile and Clay Workers Union and the workers of the Calicut Tile Works have served notices of strike on the managements of tile factories demanding recognition of the unions, increase in the basic wages and dearness allowance, etc. The workers struck work on 27th January 1947 in spite of the advice of the Commissioner of Labour to await his arrival on 28th January 1947. The Commissioner visited Calicut on 28th January 1947 and settled the dispute. The workers resumed work on 29th January 1947.

The President of the West Coast Electric Workers Union, Calicut, has issued a notice of strike to Messrs. Chandria & Co., Madras, intimating that the workers will go on strike on 5th February 1947 if their demands for increase in the staff, leave facilities, increments, dearness allowance, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour will meet the management and the President of the Union at Madras on 3rd February 1947 and try to bring about a settlement.

The Nellore Ceramic Labour Congress, Nellore, has issued a notice of strike to the Managing Director, the Indian Ceramics, Ltd., Nellore, intimating the decision of the workers to go on strike from 27th January 1947 if their demands for recognition of the union, payment of full salary for the period during which the factory was closed from 14th December 1946 to 2nd January 1947, fixation of minimum wages, etc., are not conceded by that management. The Congress has postponed the strike on the advice of the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee, the Labour Officer, Bezwada, and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Hon'ble Premier. The further report of the Labour Officer is awaited.

The Secretary, Textile Labour Union, Gudiyattam, has served a notice of strike on the Managing Director, Thirumagal Mills, Ltd., Gudiyattam, intimating that the workers would go on strike any day after 25th January 1947 if their demands for bonus of 6 months wages, reinstatement of victimized workers and leave facilities are not conceded by the management. The workers have been advised not to resort to strike pending the result of the Court Enquiry.

Sri P. R. K. Sarma, B.A., M.L.C., President of the Parry's Employees Union, Ranipet, has issued a notice of strike to the General Manager, Messrs. Parry & Co., Ltd., Ranipet, intimating that the employees of the company will go on strike from 1st February 1947 if their demands for recognition of the union, increased wages and dearness allowance, bonus, holidays, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour discussed the demands of the union with the management and representative of the union and suggested certain terms of settlement. They will meet the Commissioner again on 1st February 1947.

The Secretary, Mangalore Tile Workers' Union, has issued a notice of strike to the managements of tile factories in Mangalore intimating that the workers will go on strike after 3rd February 1947 if their demands for recognition of the union, increase of wages, three months wages as bonus, etc., are not conceded. The Labour Officer, Calicut, has been instructed to proceed to Mangalore and to settle the dispute on the lines of the settlement effected by the Commissioner in Calicut on 28th January 1947.

Four thousand and five hundred workers of the Madura Mills Company, Ltd., Tuticorin, continue to be on strike from 26th December 1946. On 17th January 1947 a hartal was observed in Tuticorin in sympathy with the strikers. The Government asked the District Magistrate to instruct the workers to resume work as the dispute has been referred to a Court of Enquiry with the District and Sessions Judge, Tinnevelly, as its sole member. The factory has been re-opened on 30th January 1947.

The tannery workers at the Sembattu Tannery belonging to the D. & S., Ltd., Palakarai, Trichinopoly, struck work on 22nd January 1947 all on a sudden demanding work instead of leave for the 10 days leave period. On the intervention of the Inspector of Factories, Trichinopoly, the dispute was settled and work was resumed.

The President, Vizagapatam Sugars and Refinery Workers Union, Tummapala, Anakapalle, has served a notice of strike on the management of the Vizagapatam Sugars and Refnery, Ltd., Anakapalle, intimating that the workers would go on strike on 20th January 1947 if their demand for basic pay of Rs. 30 per mensem to each worker, and 2 months pay as bonus, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of

(*Continued on page* 23)

Public Safety Ordinance

Premier Defends Policy

In reply to the debate on the Public Safety Ordinance, the Premier said on 10th February 1947 in the Assembly that what the communists sought was to let loose a reign of terror in the country, and a reign of terror had no place in this country. Extracts of the speech are given below:

"This is one of the few debates which may be characterized as a full-dress debate. The Opposition on this occasion consisted of the opposition of the Leader of the Opposition and others of his party mainly. One has to consider very carefully this matter: what induced the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to second this proposition and to speak in support of it and why should his colleagues in his party have also followed it up? It was a matter for thought at any rate so far as I am concerned. I did not wish to obstruct the Leader of the Opposition when he threw himself on the other side, on any technical ground—on the ground that what he was talking and what he was referring to as the sufferings of the Muslim population of this Province had no bearing upon this resolution. I did not wish to object, although he and I knew many more things perhaps than what he had referred to and many more things than what I am going to refer to just now.

"I am anxious, Sir, that what has been maintained in this Province of ours during all the troublesome months that have preceded should be maintained hereafter also. It is a miracle that made us escape certain consequences in regard to this matter; the miracle did not come from heaven; the miracle came from out of the people themselves. Members of both the communities, or to put it more correctly, members of the Muslim community and members of other communities put together, had realized the danger of losing their way and going off the track. I say, Sir, deliberately, with full responsibility and consciousness, that it is the people concerned mainly, and the leadership next, that managed to keep things within proper limits.

"Everywhere it was a matter of wonder and surprise and appreciation that Madras had been so quiet during these troublesome days. More than once I believed with the Leader of the Opposition that Madras might be giving the lead not only in one direction but in several directions even with regard to this communal tension that had been prevailing in other parts of the Presidency.

"But, Sir, everything is in the mind. It is the mind that creates; it is the mind that destroys. According to certain scientists and according to certain doctrines it is the mind that creates the world and it is the mind that destroys this world also. My hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, although he looks like a layman seeming to know nothing of this world, is a man who is up-to-date with regard to the latest developments in science also. He knows it, and I happened to know it only recently during my incarceration for three years. I came to know the truth about all these religions and religious differences and the contentions of the various parties. Either in religious matters or in political matters one thing that every one of us should remember is this: this world with which we are concerned is not the only thing in this universe. What is called earth here is one of seven worlds even according to the latest scientists.

"Now, Sir, what is it that man has got to do peculiarly in this world? Man has got to carry out certain duties which he laid down and enjoined upon himself for the purpose of regulating society. For all men of all religions, of all nationalities, there is only one God, one religion and one duty, and that is, to serve mankind first and himself afterwards and then leave this world. This has been the doctrine in almost all the religions, but now that is said to be in conflict. As a matter of fact, Sir, there is no conflict and there should be no conflict, strictly speaking.

"Now, Sir, changes have crept in from generation to generation, from yugam to yugam, from century to century and all the old principles have been abandoned. We have now been reduced to this position of each man for himself, each country for itself, each group for itself, never mind all the rest, let each one take care of himself. It is a very unfortunate position. It is this position that we are now obliged to tackle in this province and also in other parts of the country.

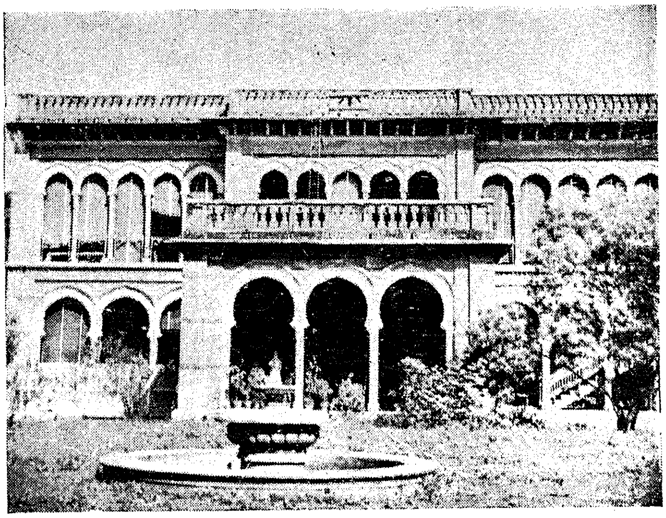
"Karl Marx, the author of the communist doctrine, lived for thirty years as an exile in England, because he was not allowed to live in his own country and even in his place of adoption. During those thirty years, he evolved certain doctrines. The rules he laid down are rules which will last for ever so long as the world lasts. Karl Marx's communism has been dealt with by the

MADRAS IN PICTURES—V

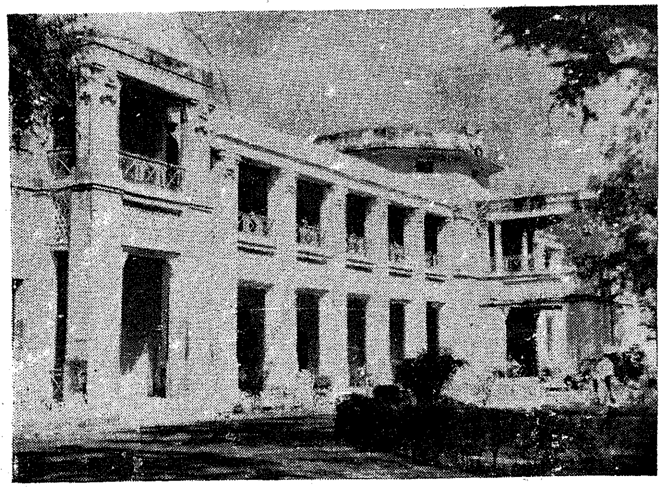
Egmore Area

Egmore Railway Station

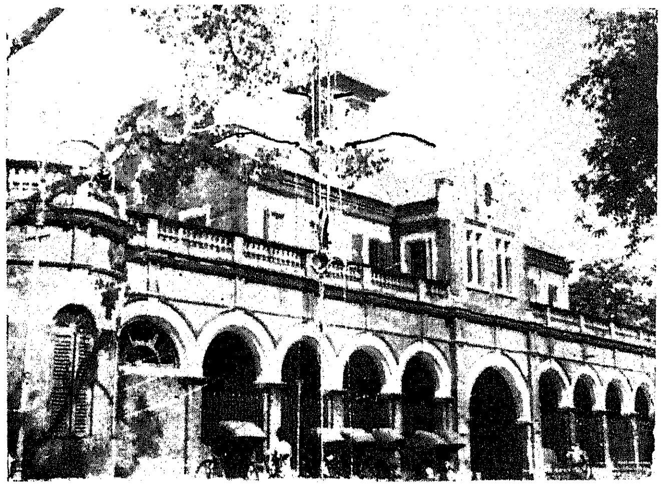
6 MAR 1947
MADRAS



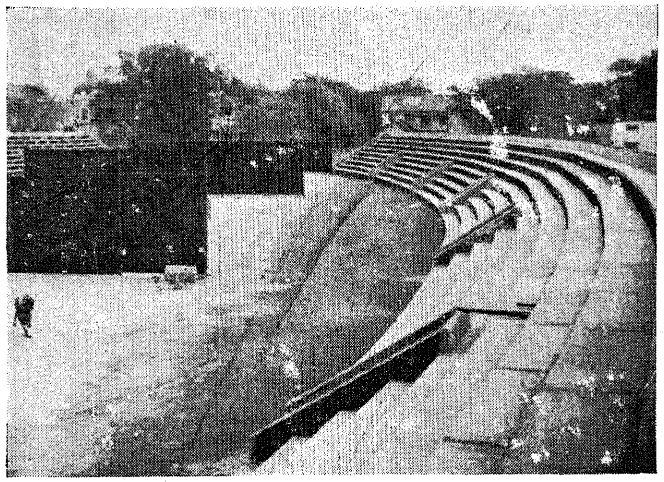
Record Office, Egmore



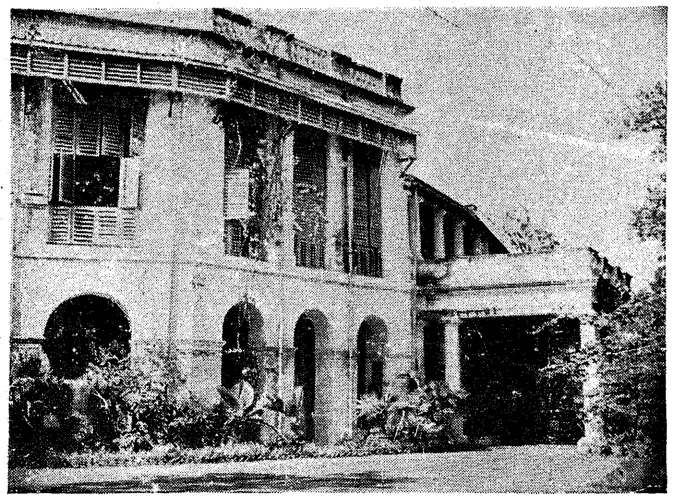
Office of the Director of Public Instruction



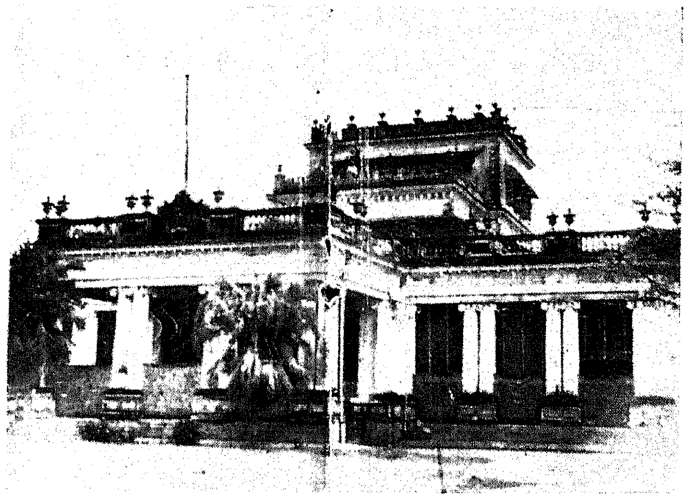
Maternity Hospital, Egmore



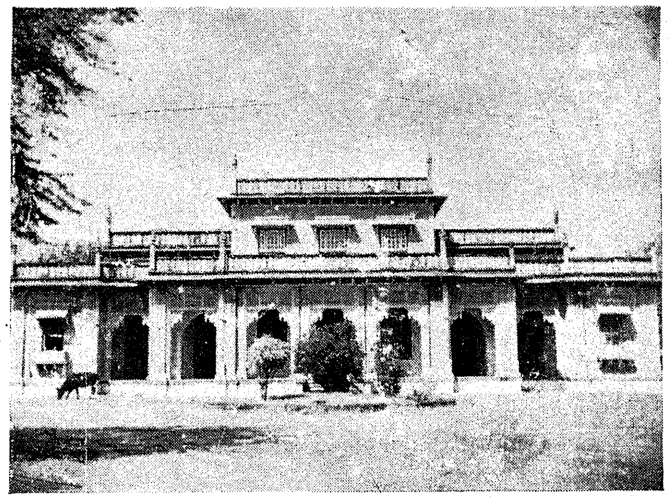
Corporation Tennis Stadium, Egmore



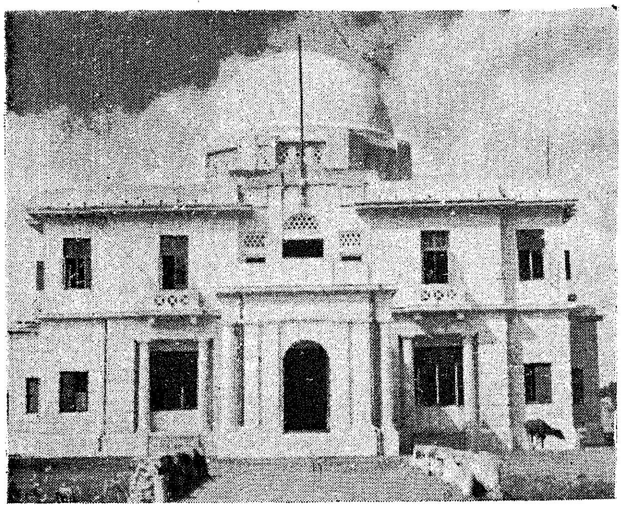
Police Commissioner's Office



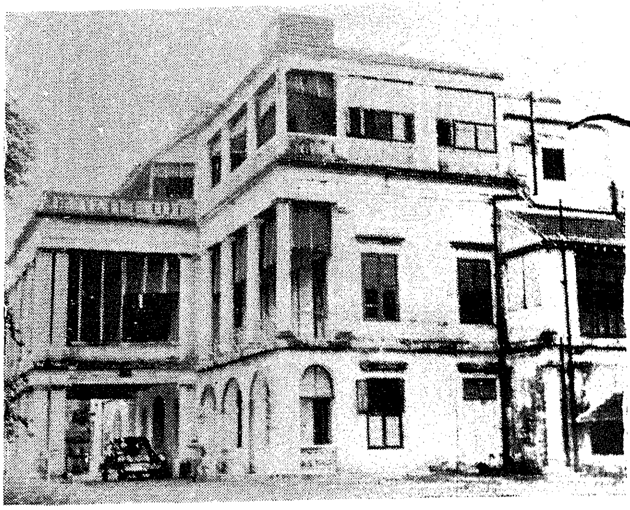
Office of the Director of Public Health, Egmore



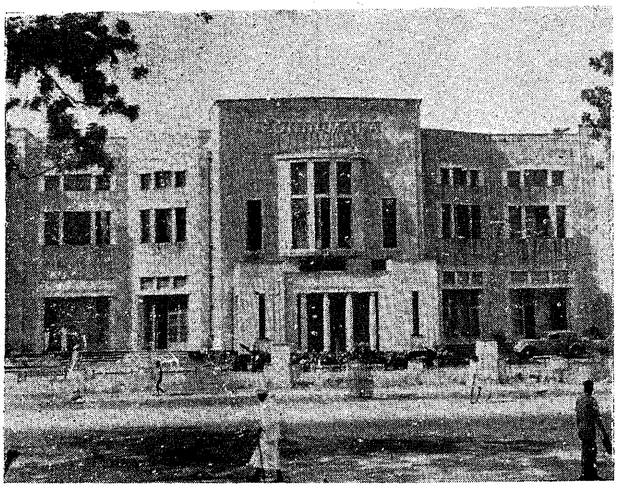
Literary Society's Library



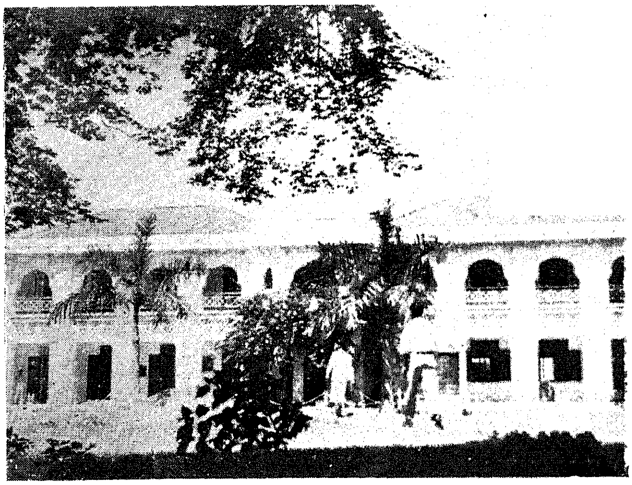
T. B. Hospital



Office of the Public Services Commission



Connemara Hotel, Mount Road



Muslim College, Mount Road

best of professors in this world. They have commented upon it; they have written treatises upon it; they have dealt with all the doctrines in all possible manners. Karl Marx's doctrines have not however been adopted in the country for which they were evolved, and they were proscribed and could not be adopted in other countries which wanted to adopt them. We have now come upon communism in this country of ours. We know the origin and the growth and the present position of communism in this country. There have been evolving communists within the Congress in this country from time to time. The present communism in India and in our Province cannot be said to be the communism recognized by Karl Marx or by any of the other countries in the world. What has happened to communism now? There is no rule, no regulation, no toleration, and nothing is to be recognized in this world, although the Secretary of this association in Bombay has denied recently a statement to this effect that had been published. What is that statement? He is the one gentleman who had been giving instructions to all his followers in the country to carry on this programme of his. Up to a point he was all right. Then he changed his attitude and went over the country and taught them, 'well, the methods you have been adopting will not be sufficient; without violence we will not succeed in these matters; you must take to violence.' That was his preaching. From that date it was that this violence of a brutal nature came into being and has been carried on.

" Our opponents have been charging us: 'You ought to have taken care already. You must have applied the criminal laws, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Civil Procedure Code and the Criminal Law Amendment Act. You have got so many laws; you ought to have exhausted all of them before coming to this ordinance.' My friends who are arguing like this, are detaching themselves from actual facts. Theories could be argued by non-lawyers as well as lawyers. Theories have got their own place. But this is past the stage of theory. What is it that we have omitted to do during the last ten months of our existence here? When we saw signs of deterioration in communism, we tried our best to dissuade the communists and also to persuade and convince them of the futility of their propaganda and of their actions. We failed; we applied section 144 wherever it was necessary. I may tell you, Sir, that in this Province of ours, the police officers have been serving not this Congress Government alone during the last ten months or during the two years and four months some ten years back when congress was in office, but other Governments as well that had been in existence: they were serving several other Governments also according to the policy laid down by those Governments, according to directions given by them. In that way, I may tell you, Sir, the Police department has become expert in these matters. When anything is suggested by some members of Government, say, a man like myself, a layman, they know what to do. They know every section of every Act, every Code; and files will show how they were pointing out that you cannot lay your hands upon a man unless you are provided with this power and that. All these things, they knew so well, and therefore they wanted in every way to give effect to the law as it stood and to the law as usually applied. It was not until the very end that the Police department itself came to realize that it was no good adopting absolutely constitutional methods. Constitutional methods I knew as a lawyer, as a pleader when I was practising in this High Court and in all the courts of this Presidency. I know about all laws. I knew all about the method also. But those things are different from the administration of a country. The Police department has been trained in such a manner that it would consider well whether the law should be applied as in the statute or we should go beyond it, and that department also would suggest whenever amendments have to be made. Therefore no method open to any Government in the world was left unapplied in this Province of ours. It is unfair to say, 'Where were you, what were you doing, why did you do this or that, why did you not put them in a Court, why did you not give them a trial?' It is all very easy to say that and the reply has been given by all those members who have come from the districts, who have actually witnessed what is going on there. Cases are pending to-day; I have not placed the number of cases that are actually pending to-day before you. In the Golden Rock discussion, I referred to various matters which I now do not want to repeat in detail. Cases have been pending from then until now. What is it that we have not tried to do? What is it that we have omitted to do in the matter of doing things properly? Nothing has been left undone, you may take it from me. When the hour of trial comes for us, there will be evidence on record here to show that all that was humanly possible has been tried, that all existing laws have been applied and that all that was legal has been tried. You will find many documents showing how in the various Provinces, mischief had been done by a section of the press by writing all kinds of things. Except in Madras, I do not think in any Province the mischief done by writings in the Press has been tolerated as it has been tolerated in this Presidency of ours.

What is it that has been done ? We had provisions to apply against these writings of the Press. But even those writings were tolerated. We thought, 'Let them write; perhaps after writing, they will find out very soon that they are wrong and they will change.'

"Unfortunately that was not the case. One Malayalam paper, one Tamil paper in the City of Madras and one Telugu paper in Bezwada, all the three linked together, all the organizations roped in,—what has been going on, you have no idea. Descriptions have been given. You have heard how people entered houses openly, how they stabbed people to death. Do you think, Sir, all these things could have happened if there had been anything like a Government going on here ? I take the charge when you say 'You ought to have applied this Ordinance long ago.' I say we did not wish to apply the Ordinance earlier. We waited because we have gone through the whole of this mill ourselves for the past 26 years, we have suffered in the past, we have suffered in silence; we tolerated all this. But here, it is not toleration; it is trying all other methods in the hope that nothing untoward may happen in this Province. It was only when all methods were tried and all of them failed that we had recourse to this.

"I was feeling very very anxious, Sir, when certain points were referred to by the hon. Leader of the Opposition. Now, if I take chapter and verse in reply to him, what would we find ? We would find that writings in the Press were largely responsible for the situation in this Province. Allow me to tell you, Sir, no one can claim at this hour to have known more about the Hindu-Muslim riots in India than myself. From the first Multan riots in the South Punjab, 22 or 23 riots I have known of and witnessed. I knew everything immediately after the occurrences. What would have happened in other parts of the world if such things had been going on ? The Press is responsible for the whole thing, I may tell you, as I have recorded in those days in a paper which I was then in charge of and which I was editing in those days. I had gone and witnessed everything in the first Multan riot, in the second Meerut riot, in the third Shahjehanpur riot and so on. How all these things came up, I know,—on account of the writings in the Press. After all, about what ? Not about the full freedom of this country. I can really understand riots happening and people ranging themselves on this side or that for securing full freedom for this country. But these happened for the sake of jobs and jobs alone and nothing else. Look into the objects ! Those files are there still, if not in our library, in other places. Inadequacy of jobs, for this community or that community ! Where is the freedom of the land ? And what have we been doing ? We are all educated men, as we call ourselves. All these 26 years, this thing has been going on in this country and for the sake of a few seats, a few places, a few Executive Councillorships or some other jobs. That is the whole secret of the history of this Hindu-Muslim trouble in this country as in other countries. Even to-day, take this Province, or any other Province and find out how much time we are wasting over these questions, how vindictive we are becoming towards each other. In the whole of India, there are parties and parties. We have had, in one Province, four groups, five groups, and six groups being formed when all of them have been returned to one Legislative Assembly to carry on business on behalf of the people who have sent them there. We have forgotten the important point. We have been taken away from our moorings and we have been drifting on. That is why all this misery and all this trouble have come about. These Communists came, became a party; they wanted to take the whole of the country from the hands of the Congress; they started their work; they applied themselves at psychological moments to certain methods; they have developed their position and it has become an uphill work now for the Congress people after they came out of jail to control these Communist organizations and Ccommunist activities.

"Up to a point, they were also within the limits, i.e., so long as they contended that they were Communists and they wanted to go ahead with the Congress programme saying, 'we want to get freedom for the people much earlier and we are part of the Congress.' I still remember Communist leaders getting upon the Congress platforms, stating their case and fighting their cause from the Congress platform itself, all under the creed of truth and non-violence. Then they broke off at a particular point. After having broken off, they tried to see whether they would be able to carry these things easily, without having recourse to violence; but they found it difficult to dislodge the Congress organization which has spread all over the country, amongst all people. Failing in that, they are now having recourse to these violent methods.

"Now, Sir, the General Secretary of the Communist Organization in Bombay was reported to have stated in the instructions given by him to his followers in the country,—I am giving only the substance and not the actual words—'Those

who reap the harvest of this year, those who can succeed in reaping the harvest of this year, will be the real victors in the political struggle.' What does it mean ? I do not want to persist in repeating the statement, which he has considered necessary to issue either yesterday or day before yesterday. Such statements we have heard on the floor of this House also,—statements to the effect that the Prime Minister's hands would be cut off, his head would be cut off, his legs would be cut off and he would be thrown to the winds and so on. Is this the kind of literature that should be spread in this country and is this the kind of teaching that should be given to the masses in this land of ours ? No it is not. Therefore I am pointing out to you how this Communist menace has come upon this country and how we of all men in this world have been forced to take up this question irrespective of consequences.

"What are the points urged by some of my hon. friends, good friends sitting on the other side, friends like hon. Mr. Hameed Khan and others ? In their eloquence they said, 'you have forfeited the confidence of the country ; you have forfeited the confidence of certain sections of your own party. You have dissatisfied those people against whom you have passed orders ; you have dissatisfied those people against whose interests you have introduced co-operative societies ; you have dissatisfied so many other people ; all around you have made enemies ; and how are you going to survive in this land, how are you going to hold office ? ' I ask, is this office worth holding for five minutes if we are going to sell ourselves for the sake of purchasing some votes and for purchasing the support of a few people. I cannot reconcile myself to this. I have lived so long in this country. I feel absolutely strong enough to-day (Hear hear) to accept any challenge and to prove that you are wrong and not myself, and the truth is like that. If I am wrong, I do not hesitate for a moment to withdraw and apologise, because I have been doing my business clearly so that nobody can say that I am doing things unreasonably and unnecessarily. It has been said in this House, you have dissatisfied everybody, you have done this and done that. I am not afraid of that. We will not hold this office for one day longer if it is proved that we have been doing anything wrong in this country or in this Province of ours. I can be fighting the Leader of the European group on many matters : I can still believe that his heart is in its proper place and that he is sound and his judgment is sound. Similarly, I can be fighting the Leader of the Opposition and his party, but I am absolutely certain that the fighting will be only up to a point ; I know their heart and they cannot do anything wrong by themselves when questions of principle and service to the country are concerned. It is only with that hope that we have been working on this side. We are not in the least deflected by what has been said wrongly by some of my own misguided friends. I have to look at everything. I attribute everything to ignorance which is a human weakness. In this country of ours, the Communists say, 'you are wrong, you have trampled under foot the elementary human rights when you have promulgated this Ordinance and rounded up all these men.' If you establish that we have failed, we shall walk out and you will take this place and we have no objection to it. On the other hand, we have established—and we have been establishing—that whatever step was taken by us in this direction was perfectly justified and only justifiable things have been done by us.

"Sir, so far as this proposition is concerned, Mr. Vedaratnam Pillai of Tanjore spoke at great length and those who could understand the language will have realised the situation in Tanjore. From Coimbatore Mr. K. Subramaniam and from Salem Mr. Kandaswami Pillai spoke about what happened in their respective districts. What did Mr. Kandaswami Pillai say ? He said, there was some trouble between Hindus and Muslims ; but they made up the quarrel and even money compensation was paid, not by consulting the Prime Minister or the Government, but they made up the whole thing themselves. Big matters of non-compoundable cases came up before the Court and although the law says that certain cases cannot be compounded—they were laws enacted by the British Government after they established their rule here—what did they do ? The parties who quarrelled among themselves, who tried to destroy one another's property, even without going to courts and asking for compensation, realising exactly who suffered the loss, arranged for the payment of compensation to the party concerned ; and thus they settled among themselves. Nothing is of greater significance to me and to all those who are associated with this Government to see that matters like this are settled in that manner.

"Sir, a description of what happened in Madura was given and in regard to what happened in Ramnad, the position has been explained clearly. I was clearly following what the hon. Muslim member representing Ramnad was feeling with regard to the matter. I am a man, Sir, who is not confined merely to the papers placed on my

table here in the Secretariat but I am one of those who are trying to understand beyond that. Within this short period there is no place which I have not covered. Although I have not undertaken tours in the districts where I was anxious to go and see the people and where the people also were anxious to meet me, yet, I have been visiting the troublesome places and acquainting myself with the happenings. I am one of those who are trying to understand, not merely from the papers or the literature that we get here but from actual facts also. I have always got the hope that when we come face to face with the people against whom we are fighting, everything will be solved. Take for instance the case of Vaniyambadi. Nobody can feel more than myself after witnessing what had happened there. Although damage to property had been made, Sir, deaths did not occur. It is unimaginable, unthinkable that people could restrain themselves to that extent and keep peace ('hear, hear' from the Muslim group). And the moment the trouble started, they formed peace committees themselves —ten Hindus and ten Muslims formed themselves into a peace committee from the very beginning of the outbreak, as it were, and they tried to go round to all places and maintain peace. It is they that have maintained the peace and order in the place and not the Ministry in Madras or even the Police which they have got or even the military which they could command. That is why I argued among friends and told them, 'how long can the Police protect you and your homes; how long can even the military be protecting you?' The so-called freedom, the provincial autonomy, or Indian independence is sought for. For what purpose? It is to enable people to stand on their own legs, to manage their own homes properly, to maintain discipline in their own homes and to maintain discipline in the neighbourhood, to give protection not only to families but also to the neighbourhood. It has been the duty cast upon us by the ancestors from whom we have inherited it. Because we had taken to something frivolous and useless and lost ourselves, we have not been able to apply ourselves to it. What happened in Vaniyambadi? We have to go through law; we have to go through so many formalities before compensation could be given. What compensation could be given, I am asking, in a place like Noakhali and Tipperah and in other places like Bihar, where thousands and thousands have been massacred? What law can provide for all these things? It is the duty of the people to maintain law and order, and not merely the duty of the police, nor of the Ministers who can be taken on hand and tossed up like a toy with all kinds of attacks. Therefore with regard to Vaniyambadi we have not been sitting idle. The matter is pending before the Court and I do not like to say anything more at the moment.

"I was in Salem where I was cross-examined by some of the public. There was shooting by the Police—I am supposed to be a policeman also because I am in charge of the subject. In one of the papers, a description was given of me as one with a string of skulls round my neck; though anything could have been done with regard to the papers which published it, we kept quiet. Never mind; they will soon understand what the truth is about all these things.

"Therefore, I am submitting to you, Sir, let there be no miscalculation, no wrong understanding or wrong impression created in people's minds. Excitement is caused when matters of religion are concerned and it will lead to various troubles. But I do congratulate the people of the Province as a whole, particularly the Muslim population ('hear, hear' from the Muslim group) and the population of the other communities for the way in which they have been co-operating with this Government and for the way in which they have been trying to maintain law and order. The communists alone said, 'go to hell all of you put together; you have no land here.' If it is the Government land, you have got rules and regulations; revenue laws provide for the assessment of those who encroach upon the land. The communists challenged the Government and occupied land extending to 600 or 700 acres and said, we have got possession of the land and we are the masters. It is a challenge to the existence of the Government itself. That is so far as Government land is concerned. With regard to private lands they challenged the people saying, we are the people who have come with so much force and who on earth can prevent us; can your police prevent us or your military prevent us; we occupy it; we take away all the crops and so on. That is the sort of thing that is going on. The other day in Delhi one responsible member said to me that the things I described as going on in my province, were going on in his province as well. There was a meeting of Prime Ministers on one occasion where we had to compare notes with regard to each province with a view to find out what we were doing and what we should be doing hereafter. It is easy for people to say, well, did you consult or take advice; you have done everything yourself. I have learnt much during the last 14 or 15 months, more than what I have

learnt during all my lifetime. Mistakes I may be making, but I do not make mistakes in the manner in which some of my wise friends imagine that I would be making. I might not have consulted or taken the help or advice of others, but we are going on with our business with the full knowledge of facts.

"Therefore, I am submitting to you, Sir, and to the members of this House, that this is a measure on which I wanted to avoid a discussion. I wanted to have a full discussion on the Bill that we would be introducing shortly. The Bill is getting ready and we have been anxious also to take note of all the criticisms that have been made by my hon. colleagues in the Congress Legislature Party and also on the floor of this House, and we have been trying to produce a measure which may give, and I hope, will give, satisfaction to all. This measure, let me assure you, will not hold the field and not be law for one day more than the required period. No undue severity will be shown to any of those gentlemen who have been dealt with under this Ordinance.

"Sir, this is a measure which has received such a great discussion on the part of the whole House and I should have been very glad if the communists had recognized that what we say is true, though they might differ from us in regard to details. The main things are not creations; the main things are there. What are the main things? They are looting, burning even with regard to foodstuffs that are essential for the people's living. What is this Communism? I do not really understand it. You destroy everything that man produces for his purpose and for the benefit of other people. They ought to admit at least to this extent: 'we have gone wrong, we are sorry for it, we cancel that from our programme; hereafter, we shall not be doing that.' Every effort has been made to get something out of them so far as I am concerned, but such a disillusionment never came upon me as has done in this case. Therefore, we were obliged to take up the matter; it was a challenge thrown by the communists on a Government duly constituted and to the people who live in peace and to all others. A reign of terror can have no place in this country of ours. They say they have thousands of dumb people who can march with them and do everything. It is a challenge that we did accept and we will see that this state of affairs does not continue in this Province. This state of affairs ought not to continue in any province if there should be any Government at all.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AT WORK

(*Continued from page* 17)

Labour recommended to Government that the dispute may be referred for adjudication. The Government have in their Order Ms. No. 322, Development Department, dated 27th January 1947, referred the dispute to the District and Sessions Judge, Vizagapatam, for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules.

III Food

In partial modification of the orders issued in Board's Reference No. 631-K4/46, dated 4th July 1946, all Rationing Officers and Collectors have been instructed that the extra ration to school children for midday meals should be issued in future in the shape of rice or wheat and wheat products or both according to the request of the authorities conducting the midday meal centres.

Iron and Steel Control

Early in November 1946, the Government of India issued a Press Note outlining a new scheme for the distribution of iron and steel. Madras Province has been allotted a quota of 7,750 tons each for periods I and II in 1947. This allotment will be made available through the registered stockholders in the Province and is intended to meet the requirements of the general public, including small manufacturers of consumer goods.

The Director of Industries and Commerce, Madras, has been nominated the Provincial authority for the distribution of this quota. Consumers of iron and steel among the general public should, therefore, apply to him for their requirements.

GOVERNOR'S ADVICE TO POLICE FORCE

(*Continued from page* 12)

therefore, vital that the police force should, at all times and in all circumstances, give their complete loyalty to the Government duly selected by the people, irrespective of any other consideration. I would warn you all never to listen to any man or to any organization which seeks to cause unrest or agitation within the police, or which seeks to seduce you from your loyalty to the Government which you serve. If such disloyalty creeps in, it would mean the end of all orderly Government, and chaos would ensue."

In conclusion His Excellency assured the police force that in the proper execution of their duties they might expect and would receive the full support of the Government.

Hope and Relief to our Unfortunate Brethren

Lady Nye Inaugurates Provincial Welfare Fund

The following are extracts from the speech delivered by Her Excellency Lady Nye at the inaugural meeting of the Madras Provincial Welfare Fund

Her Excellency Lady Nye

Preventible Misery

It is now about nine months since my husband became Governor of Madras and during those nine months I have visited with him most of the 25 districts in this Province, and while I have been in the City I have also taken every possible opportunity to see the conditions in the slums, the hospitals and other welfare centres. So that you should understand something of the reasons why we are going to launch this Fund. I feel that I must tell you some of my personal experiences during the last few months, If I stress the personal aspect, it is only because I want you to realize that I am making this appeal because of what I have seen myself of the needs of this Province rather than from what others have told me. Frankly I have been horrified at the hardship, ill-health and misery which exist all around us. In our hospitals I have seen patients lying under beds, as well as between them, for lack of space. I have seen a man dying in front of me because there was no X-Ray within 120 miles of the hospital where he lay, and it was not possible to move him. I have seen an open drain crawling with beetles and other imaginable filth running through a shed acting as the tubercular ward of a hospital. I have seen in the corner of dark slum dwelling a man and a baby too weak to stand because the mother had died and the man had no relations with whom to leave the child while he went out to work and earn money for them both. These are just a few of my experiences. But if these instances come to one's own personal knowledge in such a short time, I shudder to think of all the misery which I myself do not see. And those of you, who have so much more experience than I, must know even better how widespread is the preventible hardship in our Province. You will notice that I have used the word 'preventible,' and I have done so deliberately, because I feel so much can be done to prevent this terrible suffering. I don't believe that there is one man or woman who does not wish with all his heart to do what he or she can, to alleviate these appalling conditions. It is because I am so sure of this that I have had the courage and the faith to bring together so many citizens of this Province in order that an appeal of this magnitude may be launched.

Indian Tradition for Charity

India has a tremendous tradition for charity. Probably there is no other country in the world whose citizens give so readily to help lessen the sufferings of their fellowmen. Deep-rooted in the hearts of the people and in the religions of this country is the obligation to hold out a helping hand to another in distress. Throughout the country there are innumerable evidences of the charity of wealthy men to be seen by even the most casual observer. In asking people to give to this Fund, therefore, we are not asking them to do something with which they are unfamiliar; we are not asking them to do something which is strange or new; we are not asking them to depart from their habits or customs. What we hope to be able to do is to produce a machinery,

MAR 1947 MADRAS

Plea for the abolition of the Zamindari System

Mr. Karanth's speech in the Council

The following is the speech made by the Hon'ble Sri K. R. Karanth, Minister for Revenue, in the Council, on 31st January 1947 urging the acceptance, in principle, of the abolition of the Zamindari system.

Moving the resolution,

> "That this Council accepts the principle of the abolition of the Zamindari system in this Province and recommends to Government legislation for it providing for payment of equitable compensation to Zamindars and other intermediaries whose rights are to be acquired be brought forward at an early date,"

The Hon'ble Sri K. R. Karanth observed :—

"This House is aware of the position of the Zamindari system. The House was good enough to approve of a measure in its last sitting in regard to the stay of eviction of tenants and also the preservation of forests in Zamindari areas. In that connexion certain aspects of this system were gone into. I will briefly state a few matters which will be relevant for the purpose of this resolution. So far as the previous history of this is concerned, I shall try to be very brief.

After the British Conquest

When the British came into this Province and conquered, if I may use the word, portion after portion at an unsettled time they thought it best to entrust the collection of revenue to certain important persons—Chieftains and rulers in certain places—and they entered into agreements with them. In 1802 they passed the patta and other regulations concerning this agreement. You are aware how this obtains in about one-fifth of the Province. Later experience showed to them, as

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an organization, which will capitalise the good will and generosity of the people ; which will spend the money collected wisely and well and for the greatest benefit of the greatest number, and which will continue as an organization irrespective of any of the individuals composing it.

Objects of Welfare Fund

First of all as to our objects, we hope to be able to help any welfare project or any social service, and it will be for the Central Committee to decide from time to time what projects can properly be regarded as worthy of support. Hospitals and hospital equipment, maternity and child-welfare centres and creches would clearly come within the terms of our objects.

We shall have a Central Committee which will consist of leading citizens with knowledge and experience of public affairs and conditions in the Province. They will have a strong Executive Committee with a number of sub-committees whose responsibilities will broadly be that of raising funds on the one hand, and of approving proposals for expenditure on the other.

But the basis of the whole organization must be that of the District Committees. On them will rest the responsibility of raising money in their own districts, and this will perhaps be the most important, and certainly the most difficult task ahead of us. They will, I am sure, realize that the success of the subscription list will depend not so much on the generosity of a few rich men, but on the gifts however small, of a large number of people, whose individual contributions may be apparently insignificant but the cumulative effect of which will be enormous. The District Committees will explain to all concerned that whilst money may be given to the Central Committee for expenditure as they think fit it, will be open to any man, or any group of men, or any village, to subscribe money for any particular object approved by the Central Committee.

The District Committees will be responsible for recommending concrete projects for approval and for making proposals for expenditure to the Central Committee whose business it will be to sanction such proposals as come within the objects of the Fund.

Will Help All

I have almost done. I would like to tell you that this Fund is intended to help all, irrespective of caste or creed or politics. Whatever differences we may have between us all we have this in common. We are human beings, we are fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, we know what suffering is and we know what pity is. Some of us have been blessed with the good things of life, and surely it should be our duty as well as our pleasure to do all we can to pass on our own happiness to those less fortunate.

to many other Provincial Governments in India, that the system was not a good one. Therefore, we have what is called the "ryotwari system," but in these areas with which we are now concerned we shall follow up things briefly as we proceed from that time onwards. The peshkush was fixed according to the net revenues of the zamindars. In most cases I find they were about two-thirds of the then revenue though here and there it might vary. That peshkush was fixed with the clear understanding that the revenue to be collected from the ryots was to remain constant and not to be raised from time to time. This peshkush, you would be aware, is somewhere about Rs. 47 lakhs. Now if we take that as roughly two-thirds of the revenue, it would be somewhere about one and a half times this figure. Events have proved otherwise. In spite of the clear understanding the zamindars went on increasing the rents from time to time. This was tried to be stopped by what is known as the "Rent Recovery Act of 1865." Even that proved futile. In 1871, there was a decision of the Madras High Court by the Judges who were imbued with ideas of the landlord and tenant system in England which went to the length of saying that the tenants could be evicted. This gave rise to a very grave situation and therefore the Board of Revenue then recommended to the Government that legislation should be brought in, in order to secure permanancy of tenure to ryots. From 1871 to 1908, a period of more than thirty years, it passed Bills for this purpose and in 1908, we have what is called "The Madras Estates Land Act." Even that did not serve the purpose because it did not define what the proper rent was to be but allowed the existing rents, which were already high at that time, to continue. Only permanancy was secured. From 1908 onwards till 1937, when Congress took office in this Province, it was again a tale of further woe and misery to the ryot population. Then, as this House is aware, a resolution was passed in both Houses appointing a Committee, of which the present Hon'ble the Premier was the Chairman, to go into the whole question of the Zamindari system and made recommendations for relief. This Committee went into the whole question thoroughly and submitted its report in 1938. It was adopted in both the Houses. Government were asked to bring in legislation on these lines. Later on in 1939, the Congress left office and you are all aware how things have happened since then. In 1940, there was in Bengal, where they have a similar though not the same system, what is known as "Floude Commission" which recommended the abolition of the Zamindari system. In 1945, there was a Commission to report on famine. That also went into this question. In 1946, when the Congress went into the elections, it framed its manifesto under which it was made very clear to the whole country that the land revenue system of the whole of India where elections were held, would be altered and it went much farther than its manifesto in 1937 which was only for reducing rents and revenue.

Now, the position that was taken by it was to remove all intermediaries between the cultivator of the soil and the State. In furtherance of this principle, in September 1946, the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress called upon all Provincial Governments in which the Congress was in power, to frame their proposals in the first instance for the abolition of the Zamindari system on payment of an equitable compensation. In pursuance of this resolution, Sir, in several provinces, Bihar, United Provinces, Central Provinces and Berar, steps have been taken and some of the legislatures have approved on the lines similar to the resolution which I have placed before this House to-day for the abolition of the system and legislation is also being prepared for the acquisition of the zamindaries. Accordingly, Sir, this Government has also brought forward this resolution so that the approval of this House and of the other House may be given in order that Government may come forward with legislation and bring it at an early date. I may submit, Sir, that it is not the intention of the Government to take a long time, as is suggested outside, that this resolution is only a means of gaining time. That is not the case at all. I may mention to the credit of the previous Government, the Advisers' Government, that very many details of this had been worked out by them though on some points we may have to alter them. The question was brought up before the previous Government in connexion with the estates of the Tirupati Devasthanam. The authorities were not able to manage them and could hardly meet the expenses. Therefore they agreed to make over the estate to the Government and for that purpose even a draft Bill was prepared but when that Bill was sent to the Secretary of State he would not consent to it and matters were left there. Later on, it was suggested that the people's Ministry should take over this question and bring forward legislation. That is the purpose for which this resolution has been brought forward.

Unanimous Opinion

I may submit, Sir, that opinion is fairly unanimous that there should be an abolition of this system. The question is one of pace and of working

out details so far as compensation is concerned and the taking over of administration in a large number of zamindaries. I do not think there would be many who would argue that the system should be kept up.

Now as regards the evils of the system itself, I shall mention a few which will convince this House how the system should be ended as early as possible and legislation will not be a day too soon. I myself come from a district where there is no Zamindari system at all. During the past eight months I have toured in several districts. In the districts of Nellore, Chittoor and in the South, Ramnad and Salem, and in several other areas I have seen for myself what is happening. Everywhere there is a war going on between the zamindars on the one hand and the ryot populations on the other. The condition of the peasantry is most awful, so to say. The rents are exorbitant and unconscionable in most places. I have seen tanks breached in many areas. For the last 20 or 30 years many tank bunds have not been repaired. However, when a little water collects the tank bunds are breached up so that the beds may be given up in auction for some cultivation or for growing babul trees. I have seen such tanks myself. I have seen lands in one south zamindari where tenants have to pay rents of Rs. 22 and 24 per acre, whereas their neighbours in Ryotwari system would be paying only Rs. 9 or 10. This would be the case in spite of the fact that the tanks were in disrepair for a long time and there will not be sufficient water for cultivation. If chillies or plantain crops are grown, Rs. 90 and Rs. 100 per acre would be charged. The whole thing, I must submit, Sir, requires to be ended. Undoubtedly there may be a few exceptions here and there, but the system as a whole stands self-condemned.

Then, Sir, whereas in a ryotwari area if a crop in a year is bad, you can remit assessment in the case of zamindaries though the tanks are in disrepair for thirty or forty years, yet there is no remission because the Estates Land Act does not provide for it.

Improper Administration

Then there is absolutely no proper system of administration. There is no land survey at all in most of the zamindari areas. Without proper survey rents cannot be fixed and everyone, including the zamindar, is at the mercy of the village karnam. Then there is the endless litigation in Revenue or Civil Courts for the enchancement, commutation of rents and so on. In many cases on account of the excessive rents, the holdings of the ryots have been sold and several ryots have been evicted from their holdings.

Then there is the question of forests. In the Chittoor district and in the South, many forests have been denuded and particularly in the last ten years after the report of the Committee because the zamindars thought that some legislation would come and hence wanted to make money while there was time for it. I made mention last time of the forests of Kangundi and Punganoor in the Chittoor district. I went inside the forests and have seen things for myself. Devastation has been going on and on such a scale that in the course of some years these areas would be reduced to the famine-stricken condition of Anantapur and Bellary. Just now for the last three months, in a certain district on account of good rains this year, there has been standing a good quantity of water in a certain tank of a certain zamindar. The ryots under the zamindar want to raise a second crop. They appealed to the Government. The zamindar insisted upon his right to breach the bund and send out the water so that he might auction the tank bed and add a few rupees to his coffers. We are helpless, unless we have recourse to section 144.

All sorts of communal lands have been given away, though under, sections 20 and 21 of the Estates Land Act, communal lands like tank beds, pathways, and such things ought not to be alienated. I know of such things done by the big zamindars in the recent past to the tune of several hundreds of acres. Grazing grounds have been assigned. That sort of thing has been going on and the whole thing has been reduced to a very chaotic condition.

An Anachronism

Therefore, I would submit that any such arrangement which has come to for the collection of revenue in 1802 by an alien Government, which found it expedient at that time to do so, cannot be agreed to by anybody in 1947 and that the fortunes of the millions of the ryots should still be entrusted to the few zamindars in these districts for their enrichment and happiness. The system cannot last any longer and therefore, any Government which calls itself progressive has to put an end to it. It is for that purpose this resolution is brought forward. I have no doubt whatever that this House will give its consent to it.

Question of Compensation

In the meanwhile, however, though the resolution might be passed still there are many questions which have to be settled. One is the question of

dealing with a large number of intermediaries. I may say that this Government and the Congress which has asked us to bring forward this legislation are committed to paying what is considered equitable compensation. It does not mean that things will be valued at a rate. If you were to reckon it at the market rate, perhaps there will be some who will say, there should be no compensation at all. There are bodies that have been pressing upon us from time to time "why do you talk of any compensation at all?" But out of consideration to an existing system, the Congress has accepted the principle of compensation, and I for one will not question it. If, however, arguments can be found to say "no compensation," it is quite easy. If you appoint an agent for the collection of revenue, and if it is found that the agent has taken lots of sums far in excess of what was understood, I would ask him to render accounts for the last 146 years. If he is prepared to do that, and if you add to that, the value of damage done to a large number of irrigation works in these decades,—I think, any agent is bound to account for all these misdeeds, which he has committed all these years. If all these things are to be taken into account, certainly he will get no compensation. Not only that; most of the zamindars may have to refund. Yet it is thought that some compensation should be paid. And what exactly is the nature of compensation, is the question. Some might say that where a certain set of people have been living a certain class of life you might give them as is done in some other countries a pension for the first generation, and something less for the second, and nil or nothing for the third. That is one way of doing it. We are aware, Sir, that in some countries no compensation was paid even for the first generation and that they were not even allowed to remain in these countries at all. But this country does not wish to deal with them on that footing. Another way of dealing with the question is assessing the compensation on a varying multiple for principle. I understand that the Bihar Government are thinking of giving compensation somewhere between 5 to 12 times the net annual income or in the inverse ratio, that is, smaller ratio for bigger zamindaris and larger ratio for smaller zamindaris. All these things have to be settled in detail when the Bill comes before the House at the proper time. There is also the question as to what sort of administrative arrangements should be made in the interim period. In many zamindaris there is no proper management, and no proper accounting. A Dewan who collects the maximum rent or revenue is considered the best man. The whole machinery has to be overhauled in order to be taken over, and then last of all, the question of financial arrangements in order to pay off the compensation that may be decided upon. These are all matters which have to be worked out. I feel that the Government may be able to bring forward a Bill in a very short time, it may be about three months or so though one cannot be very definite in a matter of such importance. Already the work is proceeding, and we hope to bring the Bill soon if only this House approves the Resolution I have placed before it. Therefore, Sir, without taking more of the time of the House, I beg to ask for its acceptance.

Our Economic Policy

By J. C. KUMARAPPA.

With the advent of the so-called popular ministries people's minds are agitated over the policies that these ministries should follow. At the moment there is a considerable amount of loose thinking in regard to the expansion of the textile mills in Madras, which brings to the fore the question of centralization in industries.

It is not generally understood that imperialism is a child of centralized industries and now in its dotage centralized industries cannot exist without the support of imperialism.

When England took to centralized methods of production, Great Britain was not an Empire. Its economic life was based on decentralized methods of production. She was a highly cultured country with a strong moral background. Even now when we think of her great contribution to the progress of man, we have to look back to the period before the Industrial Revolution. The best of her literature—Shakespeare, Milton and such like were Elizabethian; in art, men of the type of Sir Joshua Reynolds flourished prior to the nineteenth century. Sir Christopher Wren and his peers in architecture never saw a textile mill to afford them inspiration. Moral giants like Latimer who were British *satyagrahis*, who were prepared to lay down their lives for their convictions, never saw the power of the steam engine. We may say the Victorian Era was the darkest age in British History culturally, whatever its glamour may have been financially and materially. After the Industrial Revolution

Great Britain gained the whole world but lost its soul. Why was this ?

When Great Britain took to centralized methods of production in the textile industry and was relying for her raw materials on commercial contracts with the southern States of America, she found her position was unstable, as during the American Civil War her industries were hard hit when the American cotton could not reach Manchester. She realized that if her industries were to survive, she ought to have the production of raw materials under her direct control. So she turned to India to ensure her cotton supply and keep her markets for finished goods also under her political control. This was the birth of British Imperialism.

This arrangement was found very satisfactory for the mill-owners as they were able also to saddle several items of their cost on Indian Revenues. The cost of research incidental to the production of long staple cotton, the discriminating freight rates, the shipping policy, etc., were controlled in favour of the British manufacturer. Thus their cost of production was kept low.

Violence and its cost

Apart from these, in centralized industries we have shown that the control of raw materials and markets becomes a condition precedent to the efficiency of the working of the centralized means of production. If this is granted, it means that to be able to control raw materials and markets we must obtain political power over the producers of raw materials and consumers. Today such political power can only be obtained by violent means. To enforce this power, it requires the maintenance of the army, navy and air force. Hence a strict method of accounting would demand that the costs of the maintenance of the army, navy and air force should also be charged to the centralized methods of production. Periodically wars have to be fought —the cost of wars have to form also a part of the cost of the centralized methods of production. Hence these should be charged to the cost of production. If these logical expenses were all properly charged to the beneficiaries, we can easily see that the production by mills will become prohibitive and cannot hope to compete with decentralized production in cheapness.

In our own lifetime, such has been the experience of industrialization in Japan also. She finds the need to control politically Manchuria and China. These are the irritant causes of global wars today. Do we want our country also to have a share in these nefarious activities ? If not, we must steer clear of centralization in the production of consumption goods for private profit.

Dishonesty

Having decided to get the raw cotton from India and having made the Indian tax-payer pay for the researches for the Manchester mills, it became necessary to arrange for the transport of the cotton grown in India to Manchester. For this purpose, they pushed through the programme of laying out rail roads under the plea of developing the country and spent crores of rupees for this. Strictly speaking, the great need of India then was waterways for transport of goods to our own internal markets. Instead of this, the foreign interests prevailed and we have had to spend crores of rupees for their benefit.

All these expenses—the amounts spent on cotton research and the amounts spent on developing the railways—should have been legitimately borne by the Manchester mill-owner. If this had been done, it would not have been possible for the Manchester cloth to undersell hand-spun and hand-woven cloth in India. This method of paying one's cost of production through governmental aid is a means of reducing costs of production which cannot be called "efficiency" but loot. We saw that the need to keep raw materials under the control of the mill-owner leads to imperialism and the need to keep down costs and paying part of the expenses through tax money leads to dishonesty. Thus centralized methods of production lead to imperialism and exploitation.

To illustrate this : When I was visiting Palladam *firka*, I found there an enterprising individual who had set up six looms run by a crude oil engine. He had spent about Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 25,000 on his equipment. He was able to run it for barely 18 days in the month on the yarn quota supplied from Coimbatore. He was representing his needs to me and said that if he could be supplied with half as much yarn again, he can run his unit the whole month round and reduce his expenses to such an extent as to cut down even on the mill costs of production. His raw material, viz., warps, came from Coimbatore and his finished goods were sold somewhere in the neighbourhood of Nellore. The logical course in time will be for this man to get control over his raw material producer, viz., the Coimbatore mill-owners. If he can get hold of an army of *goondas* who will, at the point of the bayonet, obtain yarn that he needs, he would be able to make his mill work more 'efficiently' than the large textile mills. Similarly, if he can get special low rates of transport for his goods to Nellore, he can again undersell the textile mills. This in miniature represents the position of all centralized industries. They have got to resort to imperialism and exploitation as a condition precedent to their existence.

Food *v.* Raw Material

Again to grow raw material for mills, they have had, time and again, not only to get the agricultural colleges to do their research at public cost but also they had encroached on food lands. The present day famines are in no small measure due to such encroachments. In Malabar, while I was visiting Payanoor *firka*, people informed me that in several villages the land under paddy had been reduced by about 20 per cent and in their place coconut groves have sprung up. The coconut groves were intended not for purposes of food but for supplying *copra* for the oil mills which, in their turn, were producing soap. Thus in effect it meant that rice lands were converted into producers of soap. Is it any wonder when such shifting of crops can take place that we should be subject to periodical famines?

In Malabar, I had also noticed children running about with brownish hair. When I inquired into the cause of this state of affairs, I was informed that formerly these children were bathed in coconut oil and had plenty of oil to rub on their scalps. But now the coconuts were selling practically at the same high prices as prevail in Madras, and, therefore, these children do not get the oil for their massage. In these ways centralized industries encroach on the primary requirements of our people, starve them and bring about ill health.

Money Economy

With the help of the money economy, these things are done without the victims being aware of it. Money is not a safe method of valuing articles, especially of primary necessities. For instance, at Avanashi *firka* a good deal of the milk produced was being sent to Coimbatore. The value of a pound of milk is in the nutrition it affords. The milk producer, if he gives it to his child, ensures sufficient calcium to build up the child's bones, fat and other nutritious materials to build up the body. The value of the milk from the natural point of view is the same whether it is consumed by the mill-owner or the producer's child. We may even say the value of milk is greater when given to a growing child than when given to an adult. Just because the rich mill-owner of Coimbatore is able to offer As. 8 for a pound of milk, the Avanashi producer deprives his child of this nutritious food and sends it away to Coimbatore. In so doing, he does not realize that he is in effect selling the future health of the child. Therefore, in all our considerations in regard to our rural development we have to bear in mind that neither centralized industries nor their efficiency, nor even their money values can be the sole arbiter to guide our decisions. We have to think in terms of the well-being of the people irrespective of the commercial value of the product. In some cases it may even mean that we may have to get people to do things which, at the moment, may appear against their own interests.

Accumulation of Wealth

Centralized methods of production also tend to concentrate wealth. In a poverty-stricken country like India we do not want concentration of wealth but better distribution of wealth. Distribution of wealth is the special feature of the decentralized industries. India has tremendous amount of labour wealth. This is to be converted into actual wealth in material goods. A potter takes the clay that is available freely and converts it into consumption goods. The valueless clay should have to be converted into wealth by application of his skill and labour. This is the method that would be best suited to India.

Place of Centralized Industries

This does not mean that we should be against all centralized methods of production. Centralized methods of production under private enterprise will lead to consequences we have adumbrated above. But there are certain industries which by their nature are monopolies, such as railway transport and provision of power. These have to be done by the state on a service basis and not with a profit motive. Similarly water supply, exploitation of natural resources and other heavy industries may be undertaken by the State or under State control with centralized methods of production. But what we contend is that in consumption goods and under private ownership there should be no centralized methods of production.

The Madras Textile policy, therefore, is aimed at keeping India out of the whirlpool of imperialism. We found that within our lifetime even Japan was drawn into imperialism just because she took to the methods of centralized production.

The Lead

The contention that the other Provinces are pursuing a different policy need not deter us from doing that which appears to us to be the proper one. If centralized methods of production are calculated to harm the individual development of the citizen by creating in him a blood-lust and greed no steps taken to prevent this could be objected to. If Madras is called upon to give the lead in this regard, it would seem a great privilege which Madras should be proud of.

(*Continued on page* 32)

Development of Cottage Industries

Madras Government's Scheme Explained

The scheme for the development of cottage industries in the province which is an integral part of the Firka Development Scheme, as finalized and approved by the Government, is a comprehensive one. Fundamental features of the scheme are the opening of demonstration and training units, the re-organization of industrial and commercial museums and the provision of financial facilities to cottage industrialists. Out of a large number of cottage industries for the development of which as profitable propositions there is scope and opportunity in the province, the Government have selected 32 industries, the fundamental principle guiding the selection being their suitability for the particular area, the availability of the principal raw materials essential for the particular industry, and the facilities available for the training of those proposed to be employed in them.

The scheme is a self-contained one in that it begins with training of technical personnel and demonstrations and ends up with provision of funds for payment of subsidies, etc., for the starting of the cottage industries by those who have received the training. The initial expenditure on the setting up of demonstration and training units to be specially established for the Firka Development Scheme will be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 15 lakhs. For each firka, an allotment of Rs. 5,000 has been made for the payment of subsidies, loans, etc., for the development of cottage industries, and a further allotment of Rs. 5,000 for each of the firkas for the purchase of raw materials required by the cottage industrialists. Demonstration and training work for cottage industries will be supplemented and complemented by the re-organization of commercial and industrial museums, proposals for which are under the Government's consideration, and by subsidies to industrialists.

The cottage industries' intensive development scheme is at present confined to the 25 firkas selected for rural reconstruction work and the two additional firkas in the agency tracts recently brought within the scope thereof. But it is obviously not the intention to restrict it to these 27 firkas alone. For general development work on cottage industries in the district as a whole, a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been provided for each district. For the "follow up" work in this and other respects mentioned above, namely, subsidies to trainees and scholarships to persons for further training, a total allotment of Rs. 5 lakhs per annum has been sanctioned. Thus the scheme will be a continuous one and its scope will gradually be extended so that the whole province will benefit therefrom in course of time.

The scheme is capable of proving an immense blessing to those who are prepared to engage themselves in rural reconstruction work, but who are unable to get themselves trained at their own expense or to find the requisite capital for starting those industries. When those who have received training in the industries establish themselves in the villages and begin serving the needs of the people there, both parties will be able to derive the advantage therefrom.

Expansion of co-operative movement

Inaugurating the Provincial Co-operative Conference held in Madras, the Hon'ble Sri V. V. Giri explained at considerable length the policy of the Government regarding the utilization of the co-operative movement in the execution of their plans for rural development and rehabilitation. As the keystone of that policy is the statement by the Minister that the present Government are pledged to the co-operative ideals and ideology and are prepared to support, encourage and promote co-operative endeavour in all possible spheres of socio-economic activity. The basic fact is that co-operation inheres potentialities for common endeavour, for eliminating superfluous and profit grabbing middlemen and for promoting a spirit of harmony and goodwill in the achievement of the common good, and the need is that these potentialities must be exploited in the fullest measure. The large number of schemes that the Government have now in hand, which are intended to revive and invigorate village life in different spheres, afford the requisite opportunity for the utilization of the co-operative movement and for trying out the benefits that it can confer. There is the scheme for the purchase and distribution of foodgrains and cloth, the scheme for the intensive development of Khadi and other village and cottage industries, the scheme for the evocation of the savings spirit among ex-drink addicts in the prohibition districts and so on—all of which are bound to benefit enormously by the application of the co-operative principle and by being worked co-operatively.

New schemes

Two other directions in which the co-operative movement is proposed to be used hereafter on a large scale are the establishment of handloom weavers' co-operative societies on a province-wide scale and the establishment of producer-cum-consumers co-operative societies which are already working in Malabar and which are being established now in the Circars districts of East and West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur. It is recognized that co-operative theory and practice have all along insisted upon separate organizations for producers and consumers on the ground that their interests are not identical and are often conflicting. But, as Sri V. V. Giri pointed out in his address, the producer-cum-consumer society is an experiment in co-operative ideology in so far as it seeks, on a high co-operative and moral plane, reconciliation of the interests of the producer and the consumer. The Government's scheme to set up this new type of society has of course been subjected to a certain amount of adverse criticism in co-operative circles as well as by others, who are naturally cautious in assessing and evaluating the usefulness of the experiment and who envisage a sort of inherent rivalry and conflict between the existing and new societies. But it is not justifiable to fight shy of innovations in an existing scheme of things especially when the objective actuating the innovation is the greater benefit of the general public and the elimination of the middle-man, which are the pivotal principles of the co-operative movement itself. Apprehensions based on the so-called absence of Government security for the successful working of the new societies are really unfounded, when the Government are prepared to do everything to ensure such safety and successful working, short of vouchsafing state security for the share capital, which really no Government can be expected to vouchsafe. When everything is said and done, confidence in any new scheme can be evoked only by the successful operation thereof and it rests on the shoulders of those interested in the progress of the co-operative movement to create such confidence in the present case. No Government guarantee can prevent mismanagement, if co-operators themselves do not work in the right co-operative spirit.

Handloom industry and co-operation

The cloth shortage in the country in general and in Madras in particular, has rendered it indispensable that steps should be taken to increase handloom production not only to fill in the supply gap but also to bring down the prices of cloth. It is in this context necessary that the handloom weavers should be organized effectively and on a co-operative basis in order that they may procure yarn from a central source and in order that their produce can be properly evaluated and estimated and fair wages and prices for cloth fixed. Already, as Mr. Giri pointed out, there are about 350 Co-operative Weavers' Societies with 52,000 active looms under their control and they had produced about Rs. 350 lakhs of cloth last year. The scope for expansion is still considerable and must be utilized in the interests of the masses of the general public. The existing co-operative organizations, as the Minister assured, which are willing to undertake the distribution of mill cloth and yarn will also be fully utilized. If the co-operative organization of weavers rises equal to the occasion, it will have rendered a great service to the province.

Taking all things into account, the directions in which the co-operative movement can be canalized for the public good are many, even as the opportunities open to co-operators to perform public good are almost limitless. The Government have already announced a five-year plan for the development of co-operative marketing of agricultural produce and they have also a scheme under consideration for the formation and strengthening of co-operative milk supply organizations throughout the province. With the goodwill and co-operation of the co-operators and others concerned, these schemes can be successfully executed. It is, however, necessary that conditions must be created in the rural areas for the inculcation of the correct co-operative ideas of self-help, thrift and common good among the people as a whole. The extension of the co-operative movement into spheres hitherto untried will itself be a potent educative factor and the Government's efforts in this matter, therefore, deserve and call for all the support and assistance that can be accorded to them by all sections of the people.

(*Continued from page* 30)

In following the policy that has been laid before the people they will be setting an example of self-sufficiency based on self-respect, non-violence and honesty. This will be not only for India, but also for the whole world which is today lying devastated by the unrestricted use of centralized methods of production.

Democracy

Acharya Kripalani has pointed out in his presidential address at the Meerut Congress that pursuing centralized methods of production in the economic field ultimately leads to dictatorships and not to democracy. Training for democracy needs decentralization of production. All centralization leads to concentration of power which is inimical to democracy. —*Harijan.*

Our Cultural Contributions

III

Angkor Thom and Angkor Vat: Cambodia

Culture is a torrent which sometimes floods a tract of land unexpectedly, and then retires leaving behind it the mark of temporary passage. New civilizations spring up by its contact and influence, flourish and prosper for some time, and then decay unaccountably.

The greate Khmer civilization that was responsible for the birth of the famed Angkor Thom and Angkor Vat of the 9th century A.D. to-day exists only in memory. These monuments themselves were lost to memory until they were discovered again by the famous French Naturalist, M. Mouhot, who devoted the last four years of his life (1858–1861) to the exploration of the valley of the Mekong river in Combodia in French Indo-China.

Who these Khmers were, no one is able to guess and their origin is wrapped up in mystery. Scholars hold the view that these people must have migrated in the early centuries of the Christian era from Madras, journeyed by boat through the strait of Malacca to Java and from there moved onward to the valley of Mekong. These highly intellectual people obtained mastery of the natives by their superior wit; and grafted their culture and civilization upon them with the result that the mighty city of Angkor Thom, the finest and wealthiest capital in the Orient and the largest in the world in those times, sprang up like a radiant star. Strangely enough, it was afterwards abandoned by the very people who built it for reasons unkown. There the city lay completely enveloped by the lush vegetation of the jungle and inhabited by wild beasts, for several centuries forgotten and unknown until the French resurrected it two generations ago.

At the heyday of its life, it is believed that a million people lived within the walled precincts of the city of Angkor which was of the size of Carthage at the time of its fall. Scholars opine that it was as large as Rome at the beginning of the Christian era and had something of the intellectual status of Athens and the might of Babylon. London, as we know the city to.day, did not exist then, and France had not yet decided to be a nation, and Germany was still a camping ground for nomadic tribes.

A broad moat deeply dug in the ground and believed to have once been infested by savage crocodiles formed the first defence of the city. Its walls which still rise intact out of the moat are from ten to twenty feet in height and are built of laterite and enclose the entire city in a vast square and its whole length is said to measure 7½ miles. Four gates placed at the cardinal points of the compass opened into the town in the middle of the walls and a fifth formed a triumphal entrance for kings. Two boulevards connected the principal gates and divided the city into quarters. Its streets were straight and crossed each other at right angles.

The founder of Angkor Thom was king Yasovarman, fourth in a line of great kings who shifted into this new capital about 900 A.D. He retired to a forest after reigning for about two decades, because he was afflicted with leprosy. He was the first great builder and the greatest of the great builders. The king called the city Yasodharapura after his name and later it became known as Angkor, mutilated from Nokor, a corruption of the Sanskrit Nagara in the Cambodian tongue. In the centre of the city, he erected the Yasodaragiri (the Bayon) temple of Siva, and on the west he dug a vast artificial lake called Yasodharatataka and a shrine and convent named Yasodharasrama.

He was physically a giant and according to inscriptions he could slay elephants and lions without weapons. Great in warfare, he also possessed the genius of an administrator. He called men of valour to his Court and whenever he defeated a rival he took into captivity the rival's heroes and scholars.

To the five ornamental gates of Angkor Thom, five sculptured causeways 300 feet long and 50 feet wide stepped across the moat. The balustrades were unlike anything the world has seen before or since. The rails were the multiheaded cobras and the upright supports were squatting giants resting on their knees and holding in their arms the body of a Naga. Many of these giants have now slipped off into the moat as if tired of their work, but still many more remain. There were originally 54, doing constant duty about the five gates of the city. Each giant in his crouching position is eight feet in height measured from the pavement to the top of the head. Thus, each giant would scale 12 feet in height if he stood erect. Anatomically, these figures are correct and well proportioned. Their faces are remarkably human and quite pleasant excepting the faces of those on the western side, which look hideous and threatening. Here they poised on their toes as if ready to leap forward at an enemy. It

is believed that from this quarter attack upon the city was expected by Yasovarman, and hence the change of demeanour of these giants. Archæologists identify the giants and the Naga with the legend of the churning of the ocean of milk by the Devas and the Asuras.

A broad opening admits us into the city through the high walls and on either side of the entry a three headed elephant seems to hold on its back the entire weight of the stones above. Only its front legs and heads are shown: a bell hangs from its neck. Its feet trample lotus leaves and water plants and the trunks pluck at a bunch of aquatic flowers, an appropriate setting as water once flowed beneath. Mahouts, almost obliterated, appear seated on the pachyderms. And on top of all smiles an enormous four-headed titan. His long ears end in heavy jewels and his heads are covered by three tiaras which are surmounted by stone water-lilies. The vaulted gateways are twenty feet in height and markings in the masonry work show where the hinges of the gates were set. The gates themselves probably made of bronze or wood have disappeared long since.

Straight roads cut into the city from each of the five towers connecting the group of temples and royal buildings in the centre. The roads were nearly a mile long and ninety feet wide and centuries of disuse has not obliterated their outline or gradients. Fragments of household pottery, building tiles, and fountain conduits were brought to the surface by the axes which suggest the existence of gardens, in the middle of which perhaps stood the residences of the nobles.

A mile to the south of the city of Angkor Thom is situated the temple of Angkor Vat which means literally " the temple of the city." This building is an exact square and measures one mile each way. It is surrounded by a moat 216 yards wide which is crossed by a splendid causeway which leads to the gateway five storeys in height, and a second raised causeway 370 yards long leads to a platform in front of the temple.

The general plan of the temple consists of three enclosures one within another and each raised to a height of about 20 feet above the one outside thus giving the whole a pyramidal form. The outer enclosure measures 590 feet by 700 feet. The elevation of the temple is a pyramid and stands to a height of 180 feet at the summit of the central tower. A solid wall of the most beautiful masonry supports the inner terrace of the temple and is built of large stones amazingly fitted without mortar in between, and showing no trace of the joints between the stones. Two kinds of stones were used: laterite for surrounding walls and in some cases for lesser edifices in poorer shrines' but especially as foundations which were later hidden under sandstone. All the finer work was done with blocks of sandstone with their surfaces carefully smoothed.

The most wonderful part of this temple where Vishnu resides is the sculptures that adorn its walls, whose aggregate length is at least 2,000 feet. They lie distributed in 8 compartments each measuring from 250 feet to 300 feet in length with a height of about 6½ feet. These compartments are seen one on each side of the four central groups of entrances. It is computed that the number of men and animals represented in these sculptures range between 18 to 20 thousand.

The Ramayana and the Mahabarata are illustrated here as no other epics on a scale which has no parrallel, with a spirit which is all its own. The panels are executed with great feeling and delicacy and are remarkably accurate. The bending of Janaka's bow by Rama, the destruction of Kabanda and Maricha, the meeting of Sugriva, Hanuman's discovery of Sita and Lanka, Vibhishana's surrender, Sita's ordeal by fire and the triumphal entry into Ayodya, are episodes which are narrated on stone with exceptional vigour and eloquence. And the merciless battle of Rama against Ravana is depicted in a confused mass though several details can be brought to light in this mass; and this theme supplies the largest illsutration of the Ramayana in the northern wing of the western gallery of this temple.

In the southern wing of the western gallery, the famous battle of the Pandavas with the Kauravas is rendered and Lord Krishna driving the chariot for Arjuna can be clearly identified.

Vishnu reigns in the other bas-reliefs and the Tirupparkadal scene is very vividly portrayed. Lord Krishna as the incorrigible child tied to the mortar by Yasoda, the lifting of the mount Govardhana and the destruction of Bana and Narakasura are easily recognizable among these panels. The churning of the ocean of milk by the Devas and the Asuras for producing amrita seems to be a favourite theme and the panel depicting this scene is full of detail. Fish as well as ripples are shown in the sea and the fight between the Devas and the Asuras for the nectar is the subject matter of a magnificient decoration, and a great many duels take place between the gods and the demons.

Three small panels are carved for Siva and the first of these three is the story of Kama, the God of Love disturbing the penance of Lord Siva who in anger incinerates the intruder by the flames generated by his third eye. The second is the

anecdote of Ravana lifting the mount Kailas and Siva in order to humiliate the Rakshasa for his arrogance is seen stamping the mount down, and along with it the arms of the demon, too.

Another interesting portrayal in the southern gallery is to be found in the two vast bas-reliefs which depict scenes from Paradise and Hell. Men and women in palanquins or on horseback under the shadow of sunshades are depicted on roads leading to the gateways of Paradise, whereas those wretches that are destined to the Hell suffer terrible tortures at the hands of tall and fierce looking demons who club them and lead them towards wild animals which tear them to pieces. Yama is seen with eighteen hands seated on the buffalo and Chitragupta the recorder of good and evil deeds directs with his mace the damned ones towards the purgatory. Small inscriptions are found here which explain that there are thirty-two hells and how each torture is reserved for some specific deed of the sinner.

Dancing girls, millions of them, are seen stepping lightly through the corridors of the temple and these images are quite decorous in all their poses and it is significant of the culture of these people that the pornographic note is entirely lacking in all their edifices and sculptures.

One great scholar holds the view that the construction of the pyramid of Egypt was a task of minor importance compared with the building of Angkor Vat. While for the construction of the former, stones were hauled across the valley of the Nile from the quarries beyond the present city of Cairo, the rocks used in Angkor Vat are believed to have come from places more than 40 miles distant partly by water and partly overland on rollers drawn by an army of slaves, perhaps under the sting of whip lashes.

The same scholar writes " Angkor Vat is the apotheosis of the Khmer people. If nothing else remained of all their works it would be enough to mark them as one of the greatest races that time has produced. It was fitting for them to disappear after its completion as life must have seemed something of an anti-climax when they stood back to survey their work. Probably man never contrived a monument to compare with it. Certainly it is without peer in the world's antiquities."

Angkor Vat is the architectural zenith reached by the Khmers ; a loftier one does not exist.

—S. SWAMINATHAN.

(By kind courtesy of the All-India Radio, Madras.)

Book Reviews

TRANSPORT

By F. P. Antia.

Oxford University Press. Price six annas.

One of the snags in the economic progress of this country is admittedly its un-co-ordinated and inadequate transport system. This fact has been clearly brought out with statistical details in the book under review. Transport system has to play a vital part in the production of national wealth and the latter will be affected if the former lacks co-ordination, adaptability, flexibility and efficiency. The chief forms of transport in this country are (1) Railways, (2) Roads, (3) Motor Transport and (4) Waterways. Taking Railways first, the total mileage in this country was 40,512 miles in March 1944 and though India has the fourth largest railway system in the world, it compares unfavourably in relation to the area of the country. Great Britain and Germany have roughly 20 miles of railway for every 100 square miles, France 12 miles and the U.S.A. 8 miles, while India has no more than 2½ miles. As regards roads, the total length is 296,438 miles representing 0·18 per square mile of the country and 76 miles per 100,000 of population. In this respect India takes the last place in comparison with Britain, France, U.S.A. and Germany. Motor Transport is equally backward in relation to the population. The total number of vehicles of all forms represents only one vehicle for 2,017 inhabitants as against one vehicle per 4·5 inhabitants in the U.S.A. and one vehicle per 7·5, 15 and 78 respectively in Australia, Britain and Italy. Water Transport also remains largely unexploited. Overseas shipping and coastal shipping are negligible while inland water transport has considerable leeway to make. Civil aviation is a comparatively recent development not going beyond 1927.

Thus all these forms of transport have vast possibilities for further development. In the past the main drawback has been not so much the lack of development of these forms of transport as the lack of co-ordination between them. The various instruments of transport have to be regarded as component parts of a vital national service complementary to one another and not as independent and competing units. This fact was not adequately recognized in the past and the

result was lack of co-ordination and the consequential limitation on the possibilities of progress in respect of each form of transport. The author has drawn attention to the need for a planned programme in the field of transport, so that it may not operate as a handicap to the country's economic progress. The booklet affords valuable statistical information.

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INDUSTRIAL LOCATION

By Mr. Bimal C. Ghose.

Oxford Unive sity Press. Price six annas.

The book deals in a brief compass with matters connected with the selection of sites for location of industrial enterprises. There are five basic factors bearing on this subject, viz., raw materials, labour, services, access to markets and finance. These factors are neither exhaustive nor do they function in isolation. They are universally needed and India is no exception.

In this country industries are not evenly distributed. Bengal and Bombay for example, with 15 and 5 per cent of the population, respectively, contained 29 and 23 per cent of the total number of industrial workers in 1939. Even within these provinces industries are not evenly scattered. They are concentrated in particular areas. This concentration has resulted in gross evils, social, economic and strategic. The report of the Royal Commission on Indian Labour bears ample testimony to this fact. And if to-day there is a revulsion of feeling against machine industry it can be traced largely to the evils that have resulted from heavy concentrations of industries. The case is, therefore, obvious for a dispersal of these industries. In this country with its vast distances and unexploited resources there is enough room for such dispersal. It is also suggested that this dispersal should be done on a regional basis in order to enable special facilities of certain regions being taken advantage of for the promotion of particular industries. The author also stresses the need for a National policy in regard to industrial development. The constitution of a Central Authority to assist industrial development is also suggested.

The book is of considerable topical interest at this juncture when the industrial future of this country is in the melting pot. According to published statistics, India ranks only eighth in the list of industrial nations in the world though in population she is next only to China. Much leeway has therefore to be made, and for those who are planning to make up for the past deficiency, the book may furnish useful materials.

BRITAIN'S HOUSING SHORTAGE

By Miss Bowley.

Oxford University Press. Price six annas.

The housing problem is acute everywhere. In the West one of the main issues in this connection is the restoration of buildings damaged or destroyed during air raids in the recent war. In India though we have been spared the horrors of a totalitarian war, its repercussions have produced a host of problems of which shortage of housing accommodation is one. In big cities like Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, etc., the problem has assumed acute proportions. The increase in population, the rapid expansion of industries as a result of the war, the grave war time discomforts of rural life in this country,—these are considered to be a few among the main causes for a steady landslide towards cities and towns.

In such a context, a booklet dealing with housing shortage in Britain is valuable as containing useful information on a topical subject. The position in Britain in regard to housing accommodation is as serious as it is elsewhere. It has been estimated that not less than 150,000 houses were destroyed by air raids during the war. In addition to their replacement, provision has to be made for the population increased during war time. The net requirement has been worked out at a little less than half a million houses. The unsatisfactory position as evidenced by this figure was brought about by more than one cause. Firstly, there was no planned policy in regard to house building during the period between the two wars. Solving the house problem does not merely consist in having more houses. The type of families needing them, their size, the place where the tenants have to work, and what they can afford to pay as rent are points that ought to be taken into account. This was not done. Nor was there a planned rent policy. There was also a general lack of interest on the part of the public in housing matters. They did not consider it as a case of social service such as education, etc.

Nevertheless Britain hopes to recover her normal position by 1948 or thereabout. A long range housing policy needs to be adumbrated to achieve this end. Requisition of lands for house-sites, the classes for whom houses should be constructed, whether the occupiers are to be selected on the basis of their need for accommodation or their capacity to pay for it, an appropriate rent and subsidy policy, are matters on which decisions have to be taken in the preliminary stage. The author has rightly called attention to these points.

The booklet turns the searchlight on the several pitfalls in the way of solving the housing problem and it may prove a useful guidance to those concerned with the solution of the same problem in this country.

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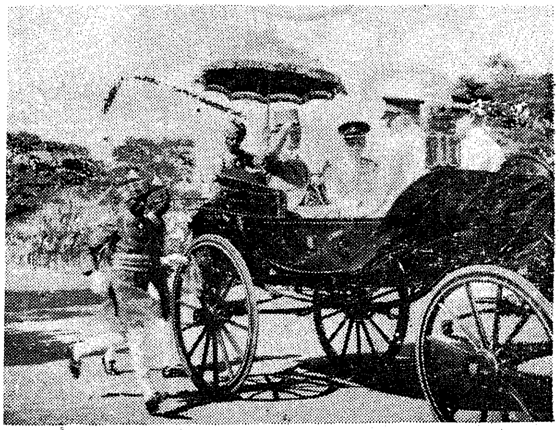

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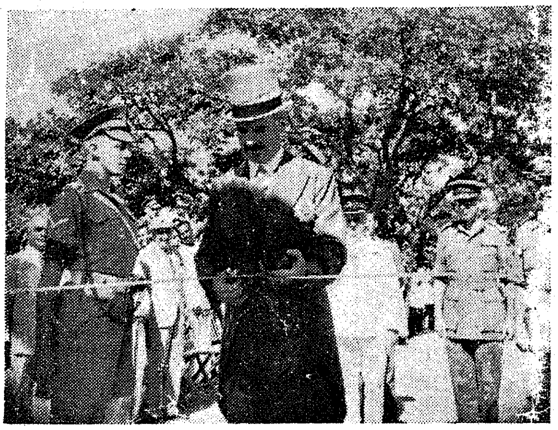

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